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Caricom Secretary General on Haiti, Regional Issues

PA0911222393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1549 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Santo Domingo, 9 Nov (AFP)—The Haitian crisis is a serious obstacle to the Caribbean region's integration, stated Edwin Carrington, secretary general of the Caribbean Common Market (Caricom), during the second Central American-Caribbean Meeting, which began today in Santo Domingo.

Carrington said the Caribbean integration process would not be complete without Haiti's participation; therefore, he suggested the need to help the small country find solutions to its problems through peaceful processes based on a consensus.

Nevertheless, the Caricom representative said that although the Haitian situation represents an obstacle, this will not prevent other countries in the region from continuing with the unity and commercial exchange process and the discussion of issues of common interest, such as transportation, ecology, meteorology, education, and culture.

Carrington considers, however, that Caribbean countries should emphasize more research and development "if we want to make our production system more efficient, thus enabling us to efficiently exploit our markets."

He also asked regional governments to exert themselves in creating the Association of Caribbean States next year.

Regarding other issues reviewed by Carrington during his address to the meeting, he offered the Dominican Republic Caricom's support for better treatment of its banana exports to the European Common Market.

Cuba

Castro Gives Speech at Havana Assessment Meeting

FL1111003693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the closing of the Havana Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, Assessment Meeting at Havana Convention Center on 7 November—recorded]

[Text] Comrades, I will not raise my voice or pitch too long because I have not been very lucky with my throat. It is nothing serious, just a thwarted cold.

We have finally held the provincial Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] meeting in Havana City Province. This is something we had all awaited with great interest because we know that Havana plays an extraordinary role in the life of the country, precisely because it is the most difficult, conflicting region for the tasks of the PCC, the government, and the Revolution. Despite all the things we spoke of, and some that are written here—all quite true—about the great, outstanding, and glorious history of Havana, Havana is also the most difficult place for the Revolution. We also mentioned this during the elections.

Our assembly, in which I have had the privilege of participating without missing a single minute, began with Glenda's words, summarizing the work done during this period, the most difficult period. I must add that I was truly impressed by the number of things the PCC has accomplished under such difficult conditions. I am not going to repeat them. It is not necessary. However, there is one fact that is particularly noteworthy: the fact that despite our problems, despite the special period, infant mortality is at 8.9. Infant mortality in Washington [D.C] is about three times higher than that of the capital of the Socialist Republic of Cuba during its special period, blockaded, and even doubly blockaded following the demise of the socialist bloc. [applause] This is very significant.

I must add that our assembly has had a quality level unequaled in any previous period of the Revolution. This means that the special period is turning us into better people, more thorough, more efficient. It is also making us more responsible and capable. It makes us seek the essence of things.

We began discussing the subject of tourism, a very difficult, complex, important, decisive subject. The Revolution did not give tourism much thought for many years. Everything done in this field had been done to benefit the people, only and exclusively to benefit the people, since we opened all the private clubs and beaches and built facilities throughout Cuba for our people's enjoyment.

We did not plan extensive development of international tourism. At a certain point we reached the conclusion that it was a resource that needed to be exploited. This happened before the collapse of the socialist bloc. Every country must live off its natural resources. Despite the significance to our economy of the socialist bloc's cooperation, our country, not having large energy resources, needed to take advantage of our other assets—the sea, sun, pure air, and beauty of our land as a way of developing wealth and wellbeing for the country. However, tourism was not particularly developed. You know how many things we have developed all these years to improve the lives of our people, to build a fair society, and to forge an honorable future.

Circumstances have made it necessary, however, to promote this new activity with great impetus. Perhaps we should have begun a little earlier. Perhaps it would have been better to have begun a littler earlier. Earlier, we had already built hotels for international tourism. Earlier still, say 10, 12, 14 years ago, we had overcome our prejudices against developing tourism as a significant economic resource. At times, enmeshed in the purity of our ideas, we feared that tourism would defile us. I do not think this was correct, but it was a product of the purity of our ideas and goals.

It was only after the emergence of exceptional circumstances resulting from the collapse of the socialist bloc and the demise of the USSR, when we saw a dire picture looming with many consequences for Cuba, that international tourism was included in our priority plans as a means of withstanding the emerging situation and, above all, withstanding and overcoming the special period. This was not, nor is, the only plan, but it is undoubtedly becoming one of the plans that provides the most promise. We discussed this subject in depth. We discussed it very seriously and earnestly.

We analyzed our deficiencies. We analyzed the many problems we must solve. We analyzed our great lack of knowledge. This was natural since we were isolated for so many years. Even the notion of how to manage a hotel, how to provide adequate services was lost in Cuba. On the other hand, Cuba had never had broad experience in this field. The tourism that had developed in Cuba was related to gambling, drugs, prostitution, and many other vices that contributed to developing a rejection of that activity. It was natural for us not to have much experience, while other countries acquired a great deal of experience.

We discussed here the need to accept foreign cooperation in this field. We have not needed this in certain other fields because we had reached levels of health care that no other Third World country had, not even the socialist bloc. We achieved this through our own people, our own experiences. Our universities have trained our doctors. Our Revolution has generated the concepts that resulted in great successes in health. We did not need anyone to come and teach us about health because for more than 30 years, we have worked in this field. Despite this, we do not miss any opportunities to acquire knowledge abroad

and collect information and take advantage of everything useful in the world. No matter how much we know, or believe we know about something, we always need to go out into the world to seek those things created by human intelligence that might be useful to us.

In terms of harvests, sugar mills, sugarcane cutter brigades, organizing contingents, mobilizations, we did not need to seek much experience abroad because the Revolution had itself developed a wealth of ideas in those fields. In the field of war, yes, we have received knowledge and experience in terms of organization, logistics, rearguard, modern techniques. However, in terms of the basic ideas that Cuba follows today in defense, these are the ideas that began developing in 1868 at the beginning of our first war of independence, and are the ideas that today inspire the doctrine of the war of all the people, which is a truly Cuban idea. Despite this, we have not rejected any international experience, such as that of the Vietnamese or Western Saharan people, or that of any country in the world, which always has something to contribute and something to teach us. This is why, with much humility, we must always seek the experience of others in order to incorporate it into our own experience. This is the attitude we ought to have about everything.

In terms of tourism, yesterday we stressed the importance of the knowledge and experience being provided by foreign specialists. This should not make us feel pained or humiliated, nor should this damage our national identity or patriotic spirit. On the contrary, we should be very grateful toward those providing such experience.

Yesterday, it was demonstrated that our experience in this field is minimal. This is, however, a field in which we must learn as much as we can as fast as possible. It was demonstrated here that we have lost time in assimilating and taking advantage of those experiences. We have a vital need for this. I believe that the discussion of this subject in the assembly enriched our experience.

The discussion ranged from the analysis of what is happening in the Este complex to the final briefing by Comrade Osmani. He said some interesting things, such as the possibility that someday we may need to welcome 10 million tourists. The income accrued from 10 million tourists might range between $10 and $15 billion. The dollar has become the measuring stick, since it is almost impossible to use other currencies for measuring because at times, the rate is thousands or hundreds to a dollar. Let us use the dollar figure.

He said that this could be achieved in a relatively brief period of time. I also hold this conviction, but perhaps the importance of all this could be better understood if we bear in mind that we must rebuild the life of the country and above all, rebuild the economic bases of our country and our development. The loss of the socialist bloc and the USSR, the demise of the latter state, was a terrible, stunning blow, a blow that makes me wonder whether any other country or revolution could have withstood it as we are evidently doing, and if there are even solutions for such a great tragedy. In other words, we need to rebuild everything we lost in that global catastrophe. In other words, we need to rebuild what the socialist bloc and the USSR meant to us. I can tell that in this area alone, working the way we ought to work, we can rebuild what the socialist bloc and the USSR meant to us in economic terms.

I believe we will be able to rebuild even more than what that meant. If this is so, it explains the importance, responsibility, and seriousness with which the subject was discussed in this assembly. If someday we rebuild all that, we will be better off than we were before all that was yet lost because it would not lie in the hands of others; it would lie in our hands. I am speaking of one single branch of the economy.

The development of this branch is not going to corrupt us because there are countries that play host to up to 40 million tourists, have developed a strong economy, and have not lost their national identity. If we are someday able to welcome 10 million tourists, there is no reason to lose our national identity and culture. On the contrary, we would perhaps have an opportunity to strengthen our national identity and our cultural—and why not say it—our political influence as well.

It is true what was said, that it is necessary that our visitors not meet or have contact with marginal elements as had happened on many occasions, but that they meet with the masses, the best of our country, in order for them to know what our country is and how our country is. More than worrying about foreign influences, some people abroad should worry about how much we can influence, and are in fact already exerting influence in the world. [applause] If the fatherland, the Revolution, and the accomplishment of socialism survive, our influence will be great. Hundreds of millions in the world are still beside themselves wondering how such a small country, blockaded, and adjacent to the strongest superpower in the world, has been able to resist and survive. This is why we say that in resistance lies the victory. Cuba, without losing its identity, without losing its principles, will have written an unprecedented feat in the history of the world.

When we say that we are going to develop tourism, we are saying that we are going to sell air, sea, and beauty. We are going to market these natural resources, but not our principles, our ideas, and our honor. We are going to strengthen our principles, ideas, and honor when we are capable of overcoming the colossal struggle in which we are engaged, when we are capable of demonstrating that despite such difficult conditions, we are able to overcome and defeat them.

Purity does not lie in a glass case. We must understand this. Cuba is not a woman locked in a convent, but a woman who travels the world and remains chaste. Let us travel the world and remain chaste. I repeat, purity in a glass case is worthless. [applause]

Yesterday, impressive things were said here, such as when the director of the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Research said that not one of his workers had defected from his workplace to seek another job. In other words, no one had stolen his cadres, technicians, or specialists to go to work in a hotel. I am not saying that going to go work in a hotel is undignified. On the contrary, we should honor hotel workers, who are providing an important service and contributing in a substantial manner to the Cuban economy. But he said that there have been over 2,000 trips, if I remember well, in several years and not one of the workers of that center and institute has defected. This is significant for a country as besieged, slandered, and blockaded as ours, a country withstanding so many sacrifices.

Also amazing is what professor Sagarra [not further identified] so wisely said about his experience with athletes, about the value of education, the value of ideology, and the thousands of trips those athletes have made, and that there has been only one defection—in 1991—and how he takes care of and treats the athletes, how he actually educates every athlete, how the medals increase every year. We earn more medals each time. Who can compare with Cuba in sports directed by him?

The world, all the money in the world, and all the offers of the world have not been able to steal our athletes away from us. Therefore, the virtue lies in us, in our ideas, in our work, in our ideology. These are worthless if they are, in themselves, defenseless. There is no other country in the world against which so many hours of radio broadcast, so many hours of insidious and subversive propaganda have been aimed. In the midst of such difficult conditions they have not been able to destroy the Revolution because our strength lies in ourselves, in our people, in our ideas, and in our ideology. These are the weapons with which we can undertake this endeavor.

Thus, with no fear whatsoever, let us meet the challenge of hosting 10 million tourists. Let us develop it as a key activity that will be instrumental in helping us overcome the special period, survive, achieve our development, and become stronger.

This is a realistic, a very realistic approach in a world in which there is increasingly better communications. We are not living in the Middle Ages, nor are we living—how could we—as the Siboney and Taino Indians, who lived on our island 400 years ago. We are living in a world in which people can travel from one continent to another in a matter of hours. We are living in a world of communications, of radio, of television, of books, of long distance telephone connections, and there will be increasingly greater communications among all countries. We need to learn to live in this world. We need to become increasingly better adjusted to it and better prepared to live in it. I am expressing these ideas [words *indistinct*] all these matters related to tourism.

At the rate of 10 cents each, these 10 million metric tons of sugar would bring us a gross income of $2 billion—if there was a market for 20 million metric tons and if the price was 10 cents, not 2 or 3, because if there was a sugar surplus... [pauses] it would yield $4 billion.

At these prices, 30 million metric tons of sugar would bring us a gross income of $6 billion. Just imagine what it would mean to have a gross income of $10 billion, $12 billion, or $15 billion. Although it is true that sugar generates a gross income with a lower cost per dollar, judging from what we have seen and discussed here, we can also increasingly decrease our cost per dollar in the area of tourism. We can do this almost to the point of moving very close to the sugar production cost of 10 cents per dollar. Can you imagine how many canecutters, how many combines, how much fuel, how much land, how much transportation service, how many docks, how many ships, and what a gigantic market would be necessary to produce and export 30 million metric tons of sugar?

Today, of course, one metric ton of sugar is very important to us. Earlier, it was even more important because at one time, we received up to $800 per metric ton of sugar. That is, we were receiving four times the income we are receiving today from each metric ton of sugar. Besides, for the price of one metric ton of sugar, we were able to buy five times as much oil as we can buy today for the price of one metric ton. Oil supply is one of the most devastating, terrible Achilles' heels of our economy. It requires a minimum of 7 or 8 million of the nearly 13 million metric tons we were consuming before the advent of the special period. How much sugar must be produced and transported to purchase a modest metric ton of oil today!

The special period is not taking place in the 60's, when we could buy eight metric tons of oil for each metric ton of sugar. It is taking place now, when we have been purchasing only 1.5 metric tons of oil for each metric ton of sugar. Producing 2 million metric tons of sugar less this year has dealt a terrible blow to our country; a blow that meant losing nearly $500 million as a result of a combination of factors that I will not repeat here. This is why this year has been so tough, so dificult, so terrible. We had persistent rains during the harvest. Later, during the spring months, we had an extended drought. All of this did not affect the 1993 harvest, but it has clearly affected the 1994 harvest.

I believe that since statistics have been kept, the rainfall levels of June, July, and August have been the lowest. This has not only affected sugarcane crops, but also self-sufficiency and peasant crops. This year, we had the famous Storm of the Century. We also experienced extremely harmful weather conditions during the spring season, which have affected sugarcane crops. Besides, the shortage of fuel at a certain point also affected the sowing of cane. We had just a minimum supply of herbicides and a small amount of fuel. In light of the effort that is being made in the cane sector, a normal rainfall year would have at least meant a relatively major increase in our sugarcane production.

Yet, today at this time and under these circumstances, we cannot fail to emphasize sugarcane crops next year and we will do so through the sowing, the weeding of canefields, through the recovery program, and through our search for fertilizers—even in small amounts—so that we can use them for our cane crops, because sugarcane crops become much more economical when the yield per caballeria is higher. We need a higher yield of sugarcane, higher sugar production, better performance by the combines. It is not the same thing when combines are cutting thin, weak canes as when those same combines, these same men, cut strong, robust canes. All these factors are influential and add up.

Yet, I have mentioned them here now so that you may have a clear idea that there are other alternatives and note why we must work with so much dedication, seriousness, and efficiency in other respective areas. I believe this subject was properly clarified yesterday and that our problems were adequately specified. I believe it also became quite clear what we have to do.

Comrade Hidalgo was today describing what they are doing with hydroponics, because $20 million has been invested in it. However, it has not produced anything because of a lack of fertilizers, lack of seeds, lack of textiles, lack of resources; that is, textiles with technical procedures for summer production. This work was allowing us to make considerable savings by foregoing import of lettuce, tomatoes, and so forth. You can imagine what it means to bring lettuce by plane, over thousands of km. A rational use of those investments, combined with tourism, made it possible for us to obtain significant profits and savings, to obtain resources, to supply food and resources to our people.

I liked Hidalgo's briefing very much. It was delivered in a clear, precise, and eloquent way, and focused on what needs to and must be done. I believe these briefings and analytical reports are also a reflection of our current difficulties in the special period. We will see what kind of a people we are and what experiences we will have and what level of efficiency we will achieve after overcoming today's difficulties. As may be clearly understood, this is not an easy task. It is a task that will not take one or two years. It is a task that will take several years. Yet, this time will be shorter if we are efficient in every respect. As with what we discussed here about tourism, if we meet these requirements in every activity, then we will be able to progress in many areas, in many areas [repeats] and we will increase our current resourses because we are working on many things.

Just as we are making demands in tourism, we must do the same with all other activities in the country, whether they require advisers or not. We need advisers in some areas, in which advisers are essential. In most of our activities, we do not need advisers. I was citing a few examples. In most activities, everything is up to each one of us.

I liked very much the remark by Sagarra to the effect that authority is not inherited, that it must be earned in each job, in each workplace, because no one has given Sagarra the authority he has among boxers. He has earned this authority through his example, through his dedication, through his work, through his dignity, through his honor. This is why I was saying yesterday that this can not be imported. I believe this idea became quite clear at the assembly.

Yesterday we discussed the sciences with the same depth and seriousness. We were able to clearly poinpoint our shortcomings and weak spots, as well as how we have developed a tremendous ability to research and create things, and to set up fabulous research centers that would have nothing to envy in any similar center in the world. We have excellent researchers who are in an extremely young average age bracket. These collectives are comprised of truly young researchers. We discussed ways to create—through the sciences, scientific products, through pharmaceutical industries—highly significant resources for the country, not only to meet our demands, not only to continue to guarantee health in our country, but also to meet international needs and to create large resources for our country.

A comrade said yesterday that science may become the main source of income for our country. If this would be the case, tourism would have a tremendous rival in science, in biotechnology, and in the pharmaceutical industry. There are international companies whose sales volumes amount to thousands of millions, even tens of thousands of millions. Talent is required to develop this industry. It is not like the steel industry, which requires iron, large mines, large steel mills; or like the petrochemical industry—which we still do not have— which requires large deposits of oil and coal.

We do not know and we are in no position to know when we will have them because they require investments of thousands and tens of thousands of millions of dollars. In contrast, science, biotechnology, and the pharmaceutical industry require relatively modest amounts of money and investments. Investments are required here in human intelligence and we have made that investment. This is the fundamental aspect. We have already made that. We already have it.

This is an activity that can support itself. If we act with the required intelligence we could make this activity into an extremely important economic branch. Perhaps in this way we may be able to rebuild what we lost when the socialist bloc disappeared and the USSR collapsed.

We must also take into account the contribution sciences have already made to the health of our people and the contribution made in that extremely difficult battle against the neuritis epidemic, perhaps the greatest challenge we have ever faced. I am saying this because I have firsthand information about the effort made by these scientists, as I attended more than 100 hours of meetings I held with them, during the period of the epidemic. I

met with the operational group, with our scientists, and with foreign scientists. I was also aware of the admiration, the amazement elicited from the foreign scientists by Cuban scientific achievements. We have an enormous field there, also, to achieve our development.

We have discussed these topics and we have found that, for the most part, we do not need the Spaniards, who have become a sort of symbol of foreign advisors in light of the role they play in tourism. It has been demostrated that we need only ourselves, not the Spaniards. We need us, Cubans. This is the reason we cannot forgive ourselves for being absent in these and in many other activities in which we must be present with the required full responsibility, the utmost seriousness, and honor.

Let us regret not the fact that others are helping us, but the fact that we are not sufficiently helping ourselves, that we are not sufficiently helping our country, that we are not sufficiently helping the fatherland and the Revolution. It is to no avail to be committed only to die and to sacrifice one's life for these ideas, for this objective; we must also devote our ideas, our interests, our dedication, our perseverance, and our intelligence to this endeavor.

We must be committed to die for the fatherland, for the Revolution, for socialism and its achievements—when I say achievements, I am always referring to those of socialism—we must be committed to die, but above all we must be committed to win [applause].

Victory is and can only be within ourselves. Today we discussed the food program. Briefings were given about the effort made in our capital. It has been truly a praiseworthy effort. More than a million Havana residents have participated in agricultural camps in the past two and one-half years. I am referring to those producing food, tubers, and vegetables, not those mentioned by [Jorge] Lezcano [first secretary of the party in Havana Province] concerning the involvement of Havana residents in the sugar harvest.

Contingents were mobilized. It should be noted that contingents were not created for agriculture. Contingents were created for the construction sector. Dozens of camps were built rapidly and dozens of contingents were organized, in addition to the 15-day mobilizations to farm mixed crops, especially plantain.

The usual rigorous selection standards could not be applied in nominating the agriculture contingent members. Some brigades, some contingents were complete, such as the Russeau contingent, which worked in the Guine camp. I believe it was brigade No. 30.

[words indistinct] it often became necessary to organize contingents with unemployed individuals. They did not have the same discipline or the same stability. Despite all this, the contingents have done a tremendous, tremendous job in agriculture. So did those mobilized for 15 days.

There are, of course, activities that require broader experience. For instance, the microjet plantain crops require more specialized personnel than some other crops.

It has been discussed here whether contingents have been successful in agriculture. A comrade discussed the concept of the state-owned enterprise, the large enterprise. There is no doubt that the large enterprise is the most efficient system of production worldwide, because it allows the use of large-scale techniques. Cane combines could be used only in fairly large sugarcane fields in which the machines do not have to turn every 20 or 30 meters. It would be impossible to use cane combines in a small plot. It would be impossible to use rice combines in a small rice plot. It would be impossible to use planes for sowing or fumigating small plots.

I would say that state-owned farms have achieved in our country what could not have been achieved under any other system. Plantations of thousands of hectares like those in Jaguey, on the Isle of Youth, and others would have been impossible without the state-owned enterprises. It would have been impossible to develop livestock programs like the triangle and the rectangle and many others without the state-owned enterprises. It would have been impossible to produce rice with irrigation projects—dams included—without the state-owned enterprises. It would not have been possible to achieve this otherwise, not even through CPA's [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives].

It would have been impossible to plant 500 caballerias of plantain under microject in less than three years in Havana Province without the effort of the state-owned enterprises. This is unquestionable. Now the object is to exploit that land and those resources. The thing is that state-owned enterprises experienced a situation similar to that of the East Havana Tourist complex, which is a Panamerican tourist complex; to that of Havana Libre; to that of the Riviera; to many factories and industries; to schools; to ministries; to that experienced by everyone.

They all experienced bloated personnel rosters, the tendency to have excessive personnel, paternalism, the lack of discipline, our super generous labor legislation, and all the evils created by the Revolution. Let us say this sincerely, not maliciously [chuckles], not out of love for the people or for the workers, but out of an excess of love. An attempt was made to deliver to the people and to the workers a paradise that had not yet been built. It was thought that the idea of paradise was attractive to the point that everyone would feel motivated to build it.

Certainly, almost everyone was highly motivated to build the paradise and worked in building it. We had created in part a paradise, the most solid pillars of which were our economic relations with the socialist bloc and the USSR because this was the only thing we had. On the other side we have had the permanent hostility and threat of imperialism, which forced us to invest large

resources to provide for our defense alone, and the imperialist blockade which, with its enormous influence in the world, has erected enormous hurdles to our development. We had in part created a paradise. No other country has achieved many of our accomplishments and gains.

Yet, the idea was conceived that we were already in paradise and that with meditation alone one could get things done. The advocates of absenteeism have other justifications and explanations. They skipped work or worked only four or five hours daily, when they had to work at least eight hours. All that was tolerated. When every opportunity that could arise in the world was created for everyone to do or to take whatever he liked most, when opportunities were made available to all children and youths. Work became more humane.

How many cane cutters were spared, thanks to the combines? Three hundred thousand cutters. How many stevedores who were shouldering 200 or 300 pounds were spared? Tens of thousands. How many builders? Hundreds of thousands. How many rice cutters, how many weed pickers were spared as a result of the use of chemical products, herbicides, and so forth? How many milking workers were replaced by electric milking machines? How much hard work has the Revolution eliminated? How much more humane did it made people's lives? Yet, parallel to this, the vices I mentioned: lax standards, the easy path, etc., etc.

In other words, the agrarian enterprises suffered the same problems but in addition, the state enterprises supplied 80 percent of the sugarcane, almost 100 percent of the rice, almost 100 percent of the pork, practically 100 percent of the 2.5 billion eggs consumed annually, almost 100 percent of the beef. Some spoke of the farmers market as the great solution. However, the farmers market supplied a minimal percentage of the products consumed by the people.

However, we have taken a step and we have not hesitated in taking it, a decisive and courageous measure because we saw that it was necessary and appropriate under the circumstances we are experiencing. The comrade who spoke here in representation of a municipality discussed this issue. The new form, the UBPC [Basic Cooperative Production Unit], which I have explained has a definite character, is relevant to this moment.

This is a measure that had to be taken. We saw it as most adequate and appropriate under these conditions but it is not a reversible measure. It is not a measure that can be taken today and that we can say, tomorrow, will be replaced by another. What the UBPC's do tomorrow is their affair, in part, and in part that of the PCC and the nation. If they turn out to be too small, it might be better later to join them and make them larger, with 50 instead of 25 caballerias. This might also happen with the sugarcane UBPC's.

Today, it is a matter of exploiting these resources. It is a definitive step in the hope that they work, that they turn out to be efficient.

This is much more efficient than the creation of mini-estates because nowadays a larger enterprise cannot be managed with the great shortage of gasoline, fuel, and transportation. We have to make them smaller, more manageable. In addition, we also have to conserve resources. Previously, a greater consumption of fuel was affordable. Of course, where there is not enough control and order, more fuel is wasted; where there is not enough control and order, more herbicide is wasted; where there is not enough control and order, fertilizers could be used less or more effectively; where there is not enough control and order, land can be readied better or worse.

Today, we have to seek maximum [production] with minimum [consumption of] fuel, fertilizer, herbicides. We have noticed that the best CAI's [Agroindustrial Complex] had lower consumption of fuel, herbicides, and other products. This is what we need today in the entire agriculture. Of course, in the agricultural-livestock cooperative there was a more direct connection between the workers and the results of production. Production rates were demanding but, since managers were afraid of losing workers, they tolerated lower rates and then, in order to pay higher salaries, each manager became a Labor Ministry and almost set the salaries. They set lower production rates so that more could be completed in order for the worker to be paid more. This did not happen in the CPA's.

Self-sufficiency was higher in the CPA's because it was established on the farms, in the dining halls, etc. The cooperatives had self-sufficiency not only for the worker but also for his family because they lived in the area. The worker felt closer to the result of production.

There was competition between the small farmer and the state farm. The small farmer would take workers away from the state farm or offer higher salaries because the cost of products brought him greater profits. Whoever has one caballeria of potatoes or other crops, such as tomatoes, can get higher profits from higher prices and can offer higher salaries. He was able to offer things the state farm could not because the small farmer employed workers for 15, 20, 25 days, or a month, and the state farm had the worker on its roster all year long.

The state farm was not about to leave the worker out on the streets. The work force shortage was dropping [as heard] because the development of the country, its educational institutions, took hundreds of thousands of youths and farmers' children and turned them into teachers, professors, doctors, engineers; gave them college degrees; made them Interior Ministry officers, Revolutionary Armed Forces officers. Nobody in the countryside wanted to stay there for the rest of his life. This was a real fact. There was not a single farmer who did not want his son to be a medic, doctor, engineer, etc. There was no revolutionary who did not want his son to be a

doctor, professor, engineer, etc. These are realities and we are speaking here of reality.

Every machine, every chemical product, all the herbicides, all the machines used in ports and constructions, etc., were not enough to compensate for the numbers of people moving into intellectual activities. It can be done—I am not saying the contrary—as long as you can maintain continuously growing work productivity, as long as you can guarantee development that allows for the use of all those resources, as long as there is enough awareness, as long as there are proper controls, as long as there is enough economic development so that material incentives become the essential spring motivating work—as happens, for example, in capitalism—as long as there is less paternalism, as long as there is more demanding labor legislation. In other words: Work productivity makes it possible, to a high degree, to maintain a certain balance between intellectual work and manual labor.

A highly developed economy allows for the presence of sufficient products in the marketplace in order to strongly stimulate work once money has reached its full value. In the conditions under which the Cuban Revolution developed, we have had to maintain the system of rationing all these years because if we had [words indistinct] distribution on the basis of prices, the consequences would have been disastrous for all the workers and lower-income households. The idea of social justice is something we cannot relinquish. We must find a way to develop, while preserving social justice.

I wish to remind you that even the most developed societies have terrible, unsolvable economic problems—unemployment is rising like foam. It could be said that unemployment is the number one scourge of the developed capitalist world, which grew by exploiting the rest of the world. These countries are facing truly difficult times, which they have not been able to solve, nor is there a solution in sight. With this, I wish to say that the solution does not, nor can it, lie in capitalism; even less so in underdeveloped capitalism, when developed capitalism is experiencing a terrible tragedy which maddens and gnaws away at politicians.

I wish to say that these problems can be solved only through socialism, but a socialism done correctly, a socialism done right, implemented correctly. [applause] These problems can only be solved with work, by working. What cannot be done in any society, be it capitalist or socialist, is to solve problems without work. These are realities we must acknowledge. We must be aware of them. We see the problems of the world and the problems of the underdeveloped world. If the tragedy is great in the developed countries, you can imagine what it is like in the rest of the world.

The solution is clear. This is why we do not abandon, will never abandon our ideas, nor the principles of Marxism and Leninism, even less the principles of Marti. [applause] There are no other ideas that can replace these, nor another system that can replace this one. No other system has a future. Capitalism has no future. Capitalism is chaos. It is a struggle among the players. The struggle that Lenin spoke of will come next, the struggle among the great powers to divide and control the markets. This can result in war and who knows how many other problems in the world.

There are many unresolved problems. Environmental problems remain unsolved and there is no hope for a solution. The mad race to destroy nature continues, the use of resources that results in climactic changes. We know this better than anyone else. We have seen the weather change. The atmosphere is being polluted with carbon dioxide. The ozone layer is being destroyed. The seas, rivers, and lakes are being poisoned. Mankind is far from solving these problems. The population continues to grow at an accelerated rate. Every second there are more and more people in the world; with each year that passes, there are 100 million more inhabitants in the world. Unfortunately, mankind is far from solving its dire problems.

I cannot comprehend how mankind's problems can be solved by leaving development to chance, to the mad, savage confrontation between men and nations. This is why we must defend and preserve those values and ideas we have secured, no matter how difficult the circumstances. Even if it means that we need to mend things, readapt, create openings, seek new ways, new sectors; even if we need to introduce changes and reforms. This is imposed by reality, by the current situation in the world. This is demanded by our own experience. We need to do all this; we need to perfect things.

I would say that this was a meeting of analysis and contemplation on how to improve things, how we ought to do things. This is an enormous field. This process must be directed by the party. Only the party can direct this process which cannot be left to chance; it must be directed. This is what our party is doing.

It is encouraging to see how many possibilities exist. This is clear, but in order to do it, we need the Revolution, the fatherland, and socialism. [applause] Let no one in the world become confused and believe that we are abandoning socialism because we are creating joint enterprises, or that we are abandoning socialism because we allow foreign investments in those areas we need to, or that we are abandoning socialism because we make as many associations as possible. Let no one believe that we are abandoning socialism just because we authorize self-employment to our problem, an excess of human resources. Many problems can be resolved through this. Let no one believe that we are abandoning socialism because we are organizing UBPC's [coughs] because this is socialism.

The state is giving the agriculture workers billions. [coughs] The value of our cattle, tractors, plows, equipment, plantations, we are giving to the farmers. We are handing out approximately 300,000 caballerias. We are

making them available to the workers. We are not selling them to foreigners, nor are we mortgaging them. We are giving what we have built for over 30 years to the workers of the state agrarian enterprises. That is socialism.

We are giving any piece of available land anywhere to someone who can plant and tend it so that it is not fallow. Anywhere there is an isolated plot, or a caballeria, or half a caballeria, or whatever, for tobacco or any type of crop, we give away to a farmer or a household willing to tend it. This does not mean we are abandoning socialism. This is helping socialism because if that caballeria is not planted, it does not help socialism. If that caballeria is planted and produces 200 of 300 quintals of tobacco, it is helping socialism, and everything we do helps socialism. [applause]

However, we are willing to take whatever practical measures are necessary, to create whatever opening is required; yes, under the leadership of the party and under the leadership of the workers. Not under the leadership of hoarders, or the bourgeoisie, or capitalists, but under the leadership of the people, the workers, under the leadership of the proletariat. Yes, the proletariat, why not say it, since this is a proletariat Revolution. [long applause]

We have had the courage to confront imperialism at a time when it has tightened its blockade, at a time when it is holding the greatest power in the world, at a time when it is exerting its greatest influence over the world, when the socialist bloc has already disappeared, when the USSR has already disintegrated, amid our special period, and when all those calamities have suddenly come upon us, overnight. We may thus take pride in our courage, in our firmness, in the strength of our people, in our ability to endure the test we are now undergoing, and in our ability to tackle problems and seek solutions.

Thus, the final segment of discussions at the assembly has been of utmost significance. That part focused on ideological aspects. It focused on the struggle, on our fight. It focused on the role of our party at this time, under such difficult circumstances. The assembly of the party in the capital, this assembly of the communists of the capital merits ample praise because this has been an assembly of frontline combatants who are tackling the most difficult problems, and who are facing major obstacles.

The task we are undertaking today is not easy for either the party or for the party militants. It is difficult. It is more difficult than ever before. The task lying ahead of our party cadres is not easy either. It is exhausting. We are daily encountering heaps of problems.

We are discussing strategy here today, not daily problems. I know that many fellow countrymen of the capital would have liked us to discuss transportation and distribution services, blackouts, calamities, and the like; or that the fight against crime be discussed here. I understand this topic was widely discussed at the grassroots level, that the issue was discussed over and over again at the municipal level. We are working hard in this area. There was no time to discuss all of these topics here because we have been discussing ideas, strategies. If these strategies are successful, then many of these problems will be resolved. If these strategies are successful, we will have sufficient fuel someday.

I have not yet discussed the fuel situation here. We have entered into risk contracts with many companies for research, prospecting and drilling of oil. We have associated ourselves with foreign companies in the area of prospecting and exploitation of oil. We will not stop until the remotest area of the country has been prospected for oil with the most advanced technology. [applause]

We are undertaking this work with the capital supplied by these companies. If oil is found, we will pay them and give them a share of the profits obtained from that oil. There is no room for theory or doubt in this respect. Either we do this, or we will have to wait for the Greek calends to come before we can prospect for oil. This is a price we have to pay; it is a concession we have to make. Just to give an example, if one day we obtain 20 million [not further specified], even if we have to give away 5 million of it, there is no telling what we would be able to do with the remaining 15 million, taking into account how much we have learned about ways to save. This can be done without surrendering the country or the government to anyone. [applause]

That is capital that has been invested in a country, but no capital can buy a country. No capital will govern our country because one of the things our foreign partners admire most is the honesty of our rulers. I am not going to deny—and no one else is going to deny this either—that one may see a bit of everything on every level, that many things are poorly done.

Discussed here were the tricks used concerning those famous purchase cards, or in any store selling commodities or handling hard currency, etc. Wherever there are assets, there are always risks. And we have to implement control measures, technical measures, everything that could be instrumental in deterring that habit engendered by individual ambition, selfishness, and necessities. We are living amid great shortages, but I know that where more robberies occur is where there is more abundance. In general, where fewer robberies occur is where there is less abundance.

There is widespread corruption among politicians worldwide. One needs only read the newspapers to see this. We may proudly state that that corruption does not exist among our politicians, and it does not exist among our rulers because no one has yet been able to invest a single cent here in bribing a minister, in paying off a minister, or anyone having similar responsibilities. This fact has created a tremendous impression on those coming here to discuss business and investments. They have so stated. Besides, they have commented on what happens

elsewhere, which simply does not occur here. So, no one may come here with his money to pay off leaders of the party or to pay off state leaders. Let it be clearly understood that people here consider everyone a leader. In some places, it is enough to lead three people to be called a leader [laughter]. When I talk about leaders of the party and of the state, I am talking about those leaders who are in positions to make fundamental, strategic decisions.

No one has been able to invest a single cent here in this respect. Nor do we have to issue warnings to anyone. True revolutionaries preclude this possibility from their mindframes. Anyone who unfortunately falls into that is aware that his action will not be tolerated. He knows that neither the people, the party, the government, nor anyone will tolerate that. We are trying to be increasingly rigorous in this respect, in checking the behavior of our cadres. We have never tired and will never tire of raising this issue, and all the more reason in these difficult times, all the more reason now when there is an opening because openings have brought different problems to various places, because money goes back and forth. In general, the capitalist world is shrewd, it knows how to impress people and it seeks to neutralize, influence, gain favor, bribe people at a certain level, someone who could favor a deal, a purchase. There are thousands of people who are participating in these activities.

These types of measures entail these types of risks. As I was explaining here yesterday, tourism entails certain risks. And we must prepare to face them and fight them. A human being is a human being. Sagarra says that each individual is different from another, that each person has a world of his own. The good thing about humans is that, although they are natural beings having both material and spiritual needs, with problems and phychological complexities, human beings are the only ones capable of leading a civilized life, capable of uniting, closing ranks, fighting for great ideas.

Human beings are capable of exhibiting both vice and virtue. They are capable of vices, of major vices, but they are also capable of great virtues, of great heroic actions.

As the history of the Revolution has been written, how could it have been written without remembering those who fell, those who have given everything they had, from 1868 until today, during the time of our clandestine fight in the mountains, in our fight against bandits, in our fight against terrorist elements, in our fight to defend the country, in our fight in compliance with internationalist missions. We should not always focus on human flaws. We should keep them in mind and fight them. We must focus on highly stimulating things such as human virtue. We should never forget the virtues of our people.

Our people one day sent dozens of thousands of teachers, and another day sent hundreds of thousands of internationalist combatants and workers. I believe that if someday, an olympiad is organized to determine which country has reached the highest level of internationalism, Cuba would win the gold medal by a wide margin. [applause]

And why are our people resisting, and why are our people fighting in circumstrances such as these? They are doing it not only because they know there is no alternative but to resist— because there is no other alternative than victory, because we do not want to become a colony, because we do not want to become another Miami—they are not fighting only because of that, they are fighting primarily out of dignity, honor, patriotism, principles, and revolutionary spirit. [applause]

We know that no one is going to give us a single drop of oil, that no one is going to provide our well-being, that no one will ever be able to give us what only through our effort, our work, our intelligence, our courage will we be able to achieve. [applause]

Yet, if it were possible, or if utopia were offered to us in exchange for surrendering our honor, our dignity as men, and our freedom, we would never accept utopia at such price. [applause]

Let us defend our Revolution, let us defend our fatherland as energetically as we can, as courageously as we can, and with all our spiritual strength. Let us fight without wavering. Let us fight relentlessly. The more difficult the circumstances, the higher our morale ought to be, [applause] the higher our spirit ought to be, the stronger our resolve ought to be.

Today we might say that to be a member of the party cadres in the capital is a true honor, a true privilege. [applause]

I wish to congratulate you, communists of the capital. Let us shout today more loudly and with greater conviction than ever: Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win. [Delegates repeat after Castro] [applause]

Robaina Meets With SELA Official in Caracas

FL1011163893 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] In Caracas, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has met with (Noel Sinclair), deputy secretary of the Latin American Economic System [SELA], during which he stressed the importance of strengthening ties between Latin America and the Caribbean Community. Robaina has been in Caracas since 8 November, in transit to tour the Caribbean.

Robaina said that our island loses no opportunity to explain to Latin America and the Caribbean the processes it is carrying out to promote its integration into the region, to which it has always been close.

Arrives in Guyana

FL1111025393 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Report by special correspondent Ruben Pino in Guyana]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived today in Guyana on the first leg of his tour of seven Caribbean countries. This tour, which has been described by the international press as a Cuban diplomatic offensive, will include seven Caricom, Caribbean Community, member countries and will conclude on 20 November.

Upon his arrival at Guyana's airport, Robaina had the happy coincidence of meeting with Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, who stated that her tour of the region is designed to strengthen her government's ties with the Caribbean region. Commenting on her presence and that of her Cuban counterpart in the region, Sanin stated that it is necessary to promote Latin American integration. Her country's foreign policy therefore seeks to promote relations with the Caribbean.

As part of his agenda in Guyana, Robaina met with his Guyanese counterpart, Clement Rohee, with whom he discussed the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba and the upcoming creation of the Association of Caribbean States, which will be constituted in July by 32 nations of the region.

Meets With Guyanese President

FL1211031293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Important radio and television stations and international press agencies report that Guyanese President Cheddi Jagan met with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina to analyze the possibilities of expanding cooperation between the two countries which, for more than 20 years, have maintianed fruitful relations. Jagan expressed his satisfaction at a meeting with Robaina, and praised his tour of the seven Caribbean countries, a sample of Havana's desire to insert itself into the geographic context that surrounds it.

Jagan explained that his country is currently going through an economic crisis similar to Cuba's because of the lack of financing for its development programs and the drop in bauxite and sugar prices, its main exports. Jagan added that an analysis concerning the establishment of greater cooperation in the medical field was worthy of consideration, especially for the training of dentists in Cuba.

Roberto Robaina assured him that the Cuban Government will consider all beneficial proposals as quickly as possible, with the aim of completing the projects of common interest that will consolidate the historically good relations between Cuba and Guyana.

Holds Talks With Health Minister

FL1211032593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Report by special correspondent Ruben Pino in Georgetown, Guyana]

[Text] On the second day of his visit to Guyana, which is part of his tour of seven Caribbean countries, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today held extensive talks with Guyanese President Cheddi Jagan. He also met with some members of Jagan's cabinet, namely Health Minister Gail Teixeira; and Trade, Industry and Tourism Minister Shree Chand.

On this occasion, Robaina conveyed to Jagan a message from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, and explained to his hosts the changes that are taking place in Cuba in keeping with the process of integration of the country into the regional and world economy.

For his part, Dr. Chagan also conveyed greetings and expressed interest in exploring some experiences concerning the Cuban reality, primarily regarding health, use of sugarcane byproducts, alternate energy sources, tourism, and other matters.

Robaina today also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sam Hinds and held extensive talks with (Byron Blake), acting secretary general of the Caribbean Community, Caricom.

This afternoon he held a brief meeting with Guyanese opposition leader Desmond Hoyte at the headquarters of the People's National Congress. He also visited the (Limey) company, which processes bauxite.

Finally, prior to departing for Trinidad & Tobago on the next leg of his Caribbean tour, Robaina attended the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two coutries, and a cooperation agreement to fight the international trade of drugs and psychotropic substances between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Cuba.

Commentary Examines UN Vote, U.S. Policy

FL1011180193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras Castro]

[Text] Distinguished U.S. political and academic figures have been giving their opinions, in this edition of the "Exclusivo" program on Radio Rebelde [citing NEW YORK TIMES article], on Washington's mistake in maintaining the blockade against Cuba and leaving itself open to such a categorical rejection on the part of the international community at the UN General Assembly last week. As you will recall, the UN General Assembly, in a vote of 89 to 4 with 57 abstentions, approved a draft

resolution presented by our country entitled "The Need To Put an End to the Blockade Imposed by the United States Against Cuba."

With the single exception of Paraguay, the entirety of the Latin American countries united in that vote, if one counts the votes in favor plus the abstentions. No EC country backed Washington. Placing the vote on the agenda for the UN General Assembly next year was also approved.

In reality, this was a triumph for the international community, which is opposed to obstructions to trade and free navigation, and to having any nation—read: the United States—arrogate to itself the right to impose its laws outside its borders, in a clear reference to the Torricelli Amendment.

In an editorial that we have excerpted, THE NEW YORK TIMES points out that the Torricelli Law—I quote: has embarrassingly isolated the United States.

I think the conservative policy that has been followed by the current administration, the assumption of the Reagan-Bush Republican legacy without creativity—which shows up clearly in errors such as the invasion of Somalia, the failure of the intervention in Haiti, the not-at-all-creative vagueness in Bosnia, and the maintenance of the same old Cold War policy against our country—is making itself felt in Washington.

In such a climate, the resignation of the State Department's second-highest ranking official, Clifton Wharton, is not incidental. The Spanish news agency EFE comments today that the immediate acceptance of Wharton's resignation—I quote: opened doors to a profound restructuring within the White House and in U.S. foreign policy. [no ending quote as heard]

A few weeks ago, Wharton met with the most conservative and aggressive group within the Cuban community in the United States and, in ambiguous language that lends itself to more than one interpretation, said that his government will maintain the embargo, as they call the blockade. Many analysts were left with the impression that Washington acts as if it is being held hostage by violence-prone pressure groups of the extreme Right.

The names of five possible successors to Wharton are already circulating in the U.S. media, but the fact that none of them is extremely knowledgeable about the realities of Latin America and the Caribbean cannot be overlooked. Strobe Talbott is a specialist on Russia and the former Soviet Union; (Donald McHenry) was ambassador to the United Nations during Jimmy Carter's administration; Thomas Pickering has held positions in Moscow; (Winston Lord) specialized in Asian and Pacific affairs, as assistant secretary of state; and (Michael Amarcord) was ambassador to Japan.

Wharton—who is the son of the first black ambassador in U.S. history, to Norway in 1961—does not seem to have brought the Clinton administration any new ideas. I think that the United States' humiliation at the UN General Assembly falls within the framework of this macroenvironment of a conservative policy that is not very creative. It is a humiliation because the United States ended up totally isolated from the international community, for not even its closest allies ratified a policy of strangulation, Cold War, obstruction of trade, and extraterritoriality of the law.

PRC Delegation Arrives for Official Visit

FL1111120693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] A PRC delegation led by Zhang Boxing, secretary of the CPC Shaanxi provincial committee, today arrived in our country on an official visit.

The PRC delegation is made up of six officials of the CPC in Shaanxi Province, which has 33 million people.

Zhang is a member of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Congress.

(Alberto Arufe), coordinator of the Foreign Relations Department of the Central Committe, welcomed the PRC officials who came to Cuba to learn about our people's struggle to overcome the special period and to further strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two parties and peoples.

(Arufe) thanked the Chinese visitors for the PRC's vote at the United Nations against the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Zhang voiced satisfaction for this and quoted an old Chinese saying: When there is no ethical basis, there is no support.

The delegation will stay in Cuba for a week and will visit areas of economic, scientific, and educational interests and will hold meetings with Cuban officials.

Zhang Boxing Meets With Officials

FL1211032093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Zhang Boxing, secretary of the CPC Shaanxi provincial committee, who is currently making an official visit to Cuba stated: We are creating possibilities of increasing scientific, technical, and commercial relations with Cuba. Zhang Boxing has met with Maria de los Angeles Garcia, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba. Today, Boxing also met with Jose Luis Rodriguez, Minister President of the State committee for Finance. Boxing described the bilateral relations between Cuba and the PRC as very good, and highlighted the historic relations between the two countries. The Chinese province of Shaanxi has 33 million inhabitants and covers 205,000 square meters. Even though Shaanxi is not one of the more developed provinces, it has a solid industrial base.

Haiti

Malval Defense Minister Sentenced to 10 Days Arrest

PA1111202893 Paris AFP in Spanish 1955 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Nov (AFP)—According to a letter whose contents were aired by the privately owned station Radio Tropic FM today, the Haitian Military Command has sentenced General Jean Beliotte, retired, the defense minister of Robert Malval's government, to 10 days of detention.

General Philippe Biambi, chief of staff, who signed the letter and who acted on Army Commander Gen. Raoul Cedras' orders, considering that the minister could be tried by a military court, wrote that the General Command "is satisfied with sentencing you to 10 days under arrest, which you will serve as soon as you cease in your defense minister's functions."

The letter reproaches the minister for his "neglecting to obey military regulations and doing his duty," as well as "having taken the liberty of making remarks" to the Army commander. The "remarks" accredited to Gen. Beliotte were included in two letters addressed to Gen. Cedras on 4 and 6 November.

Judge Gives Oil Companies 24 Hours To Resume Sales

PA1211015493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0039 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 Nov (EFE)—The order issued to three multinational oil companies operating in Haiti to resume gasoline sales in the country will be enforced "by all legal means," Judge Henock Voltaire warned today.

Judge Voltaire ordered the Esso, Shell, and Texaco oil companies to resume the distribution of gasoline, which was suspended at the end of October because of an embargo decreed by the United Nations against Haiti to pressure the military regime to return power to constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown in September 1991.

On 10 November, Shell Oil refused to abide by an order from Haitian judicial authorities to resume gasoline sales, the company announced from its offices in Houston (Texas). In a communique, the oil company justified its decision by saying it was complying with an embargo declared by the United Nations on 19 October against the coupists.

Judget Voltaire said: "We are persevering within the framework of Haitian laws. Therefore, companies operating in Haiti must follow Haitian laws." Voltaire gave the companies a 24-hour deadline to resume the distribution of gasoline, which expired today.

Shell announced from its office in Texas (United States) that "we cannot break the sanctions currently imposed" on Haiti. Economic sanctions against the military regime were stiffened after the coupists refused to comply with an agreement to guarantee Aristide's return, which was accepted in early June.

Senate President Opposes Intervention

FL1011232693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded in Creole]

[Text] Activities are at standstill in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate. The Senate president explained that this situation is due to the crisis and the atmosphere of fear in the country. Senator Firmin Jean-Louis pointed out that his colleagues had already begun work on the file of the new police force when Minister Malary was murdered.

Questioned on the announcement of the return of the 18 January elected senators to the Senate, Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis indicated that such a decision would represent a violation of the New York pact, and believes this initiative will make the crisis worse:

"As you know, I heard statements on the radio, by engineer Dejean Belizaire, that the 18 January elected are going to retake their seats in parliament. I am surprised by this because of the New York pact, which clearly stipulates that the senators elected in the contested elections would refrain from sitting in parliament, thus allowing for a normal running of the parliament. Now, I hear them say they are going to return to parliament.

I would consider this a blatant, serious violation of the New York pact. I would consider it a crisis within the crisis. We all know that the 18 January 1992 elections is one of the most significant elements in the national crisis. I therefore hope that those gentlemen are not going to plunge us more deeply into the crisis, that they are going to calm down and wait for the decision that should be made by the arbitration commission on that subject."

Questioned on the proposal by certain sectors for a military intervention to solve the crisis, the Senate president opposes such a formula. Sen. Jean-Louis invites the actors in the crisis to show responsibility:

"I must tell you that I do not know many people who favor an intervention. Any armed intervention in a foreign country usually leaves a bitter taste when it is over. Besides, it is an extraordinary infringement on the national sovereignty of a country. I therefore do not believe that there are people who would favor that.

However, we are in a situation of serious crisis. The country is dying. The country cannot take it anymore. The country is exasperated. The Haitian people are

exasperated. I believe there is a real threat of intervention. Even President Clinton mentioned it. It is upon us Haitians to do whatever possible to avoid the catastrophe, to avoid such temptation, to take our destiny in hand, to take responsibility so that it is not the foreigner who forces us, or tries to put order into our disorder in the home."

Deputies Differ on Military Intervention

FL1011161793 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The parliament members of the radical Left give the idea of a [military] intervention a cold reception, a truly negative answer, with the exception of National Front for Change and Democracy parliament members who assert that in the event of the landing of foreign military in Haiti, only the Army would be responsible. Deputy Guerrier Compere would deplore a military intervention in Haiti, but would understand the initiative.

[Begin recording] [Compere, in Creole] If President Clinton decides today to send military troops to intervene in Haiti, I believe it is a situation that I would really deplore. However, I would not say that Clinton (?should be blamed) for sending troops to Haiti because after two years of crisis I believe that President Clinton and the Americans, as well as all Haiti's friends who are trying to defend, to help us defend democracy, have given us (?enough time) so that we Haitians could try to find a solution. But many sectors in Haiti want everything for themselves: Some people believe it is through the force of weapons, through assassinations, and through committing bad actions that they can reach a solution favorable to themselves. I believe that today I would say that Clinton should not be blamed if that happens, but that it is those people in Haiti who do not want to hold back and give this country a chance. [passage omitted] [end recording]

For his part, Deputy (Milrani Victor) believes the worsening of the Haitian crisis would justify a military intervention in Haiti. It is not my option, [he said], but only the Army would be responsible for that if it happened. This is very paradoxical: He is against the embargo, but favors total blockade. [passage omitted]

Latin American Ambassadors Support Government

FL1011162093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] The government of Prime Minister Robert Malval has received the support of the Latin American countries.

Ambassadors accredited in Haiti from Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, and Chile and the charge d'affaires of the Dominican Republic made a point of renewing their support for the Haitian prime minister. It should be noted that on 9 November Robert Malval met with Ambassador John Peter Leonard, director of the Office of Caribbean Affairs of the U.S. State Department.

Ambassador Leonard, who was accompanied by William Swing, resident U.S. ambassador in Haiti, made it a point to give his support to the constitutional government. The talks were on the political crisis and ways and means to solve it. On 9 November Mr. Malval received at his residence the group of Latin American ambassadors posted in Haiti.

Correction to Army Denies Aborting 5 Nov Meeting

FL0911140293

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Army Denies Aborting 5 Nov Meeting, Advocates Talks," published in the 9 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 15:

Paragraph three, first sentence make read: ...Clinton on 7 November, that even a.... (correcting month)

Salinas: Mexico Will Not Sacrifice Sovereignty

PA1111151393 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] The U.S. Congress vote on the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] on 17 November and the imminent presentation of the Revolutionary Institutional Party [PRI] candidate for president in a few days have created expectation in the country. In a speech at a dinner with chemical sector industrialists, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made a number of statements worth considering seriously. He said that Mexico is clearly aware of its destiny and of what is good for the country. Greater trade is good for Mexico but the principle of sovereignty will not be sacrificed to take advantage of opportunities. Salinas said no one should be mistaken. Mexico knows exactly what it wants.

[Begin Salinas recording] Let no one be mistaken. The decisions regarding Mexico have been and will continue to be made by Mexicans. [end recording]

In the past few days there have been increasing rumors that the United States wants to know the name of the PRI candidate for president reportedly so NAFTA can stand a better chance for approval by the U.S. Congress.

[Begin Salinas recording] Mexico has never sacrificed principles to take advantage of opportunities. The country never did it in the past, it is not willing to do it at present, and will not do it in the future. Mexico's nationalism is permanent. Our identity is more profound than the identities of many other nations. [end recording]

He said Mexico possesses one of the most complex borders in the world and that, for this reason, advantages must be exploited but without sacrificing sovereignty. He pointed out that the only relevant assessment of the country is to be made by Mexicans. He remarked that domestic interest is the priority for Mexico. The social program, inflation control, educational reforms, environment protection, and democratic reforms are being carried out because Mexico is persuaded they are good for the country, he said.

[Begin Salinas recording] We Mexicans will continue to do what is good for Mexico. No one will do for Mexico what we are not willing to do for our homeland. Mexico is to be recognized by the Mexican people's work. [end recording]

He urged the industrialists to persevere in transformation, change, and productivity. During the closing of the 25th national chemical industry's forum, Salinas was accompanied by Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche and Energy and Mines Secretary Emilio Lozoya.

Mexican Secretary Terms Debate 'Very Positive'

PA1011182093 Paris AFP in Spanish 1710 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Nov (AFP)—Jaime Serra Puche, Mexican Commerce and Industrial Development secretary, stated here today that in the televised debate U.S. Vice President Alberto Gore "clearly" explained the ideas behind NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], "which was something that had to be explained in view of the fears NAFTA opponents are trying to instill."

In a radio telephone interview, Serra Puche said the Gore-Ross Perot debate "had been very positive because it brought up the real points of the treaty, rather than related topics that are usually raised for the purpose of opposing the treaty."

"I have the impression that it was clearly explained what the treaty will generate, which is to permit the region—the United States, Canada, and Mexico—to be more competitive regarding other parts of the world" and that this competitiveness will generate more exports, greater production, and more jobs, he added. "The facts and fundamental reasons are beginning to prevail over the fears that were generated about this topic," he said. He added that "to the extent that the public learns real information about the treaty, it will gain support."

Jorge Montano, Mexican ambassador to the United States, also stated in a radio telephone call that he learned this morning that three other "undecided" congressmen have decided to give their affirmative vote to the treaty when it goes up for debate on 17 November. Gore "coolly and calmly managed to place things in their proper perspective" and "we are seeing the specific results of this debate, which is the best way to decide whether or not it was favorable," Montano stated.

Colombian Foreign Minister on NAFTA Expectations

FL1111121193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2109 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 10, CANA—Guyana and Colombia have signed an agreement establishing a joint commission, Colombia's foreign minister, Noemi Sanin de Rubio, said Wednesday. The joint commission, which is expected to focus on areas including assistance and co-operation, is to hold its inaugural meeting in the first quarter of 1994.

During a press conference, the first female foreign minister to visit Guyana said her country was expecting great things from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"It is not only important to Mexico, (but) it is important to all Latin America, and the Caribbean as well." De Rubio said through an interpreter. "We have a dream of our American hemisphere linked from Alaska to the

Patagonia before the end of this century so that we will have the most important market in this globe," she said.

De Rubio said it would be a "strange signal" to Colombia if the UNited states does not approve NAFTA, which is awaiting passage through the U.S. Congress. Colombia, De Rubio said, was preparing to join NAFTA by the end of the century.

Reviewing her two-day visit here, she said: "The most important (aspect) is to be able to acknowledge that we're inter-dependent and (work) through reciprocal co-operation, especially in the field of technology which we could give to Guyana."

With proper training, an improvement in efficiency and free trade agreements on the cards, the welfare of the peoples of the two countries could be improved, the foreign minister told reporters.

De Rubio extended an invitation for President Cheddi Jagan, her Guyanese counterpart Clement Rohee, and the local press corps to visit Colombia.

Colombian Trade Minister Comments on NAFTA

PA1011131393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] All Latin America is closely following the events surrounding NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement]. Colombia is very much interested in this issue, and to this effect, we talked with some experts in the field. It will benefit Colombia if NAFTA between Mexico, the United States, and Canada is approved. In the long term, Colombia might adhere to the agreement.

[Begin Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos] As we integrate with Mexico, and Mexico is integrated with the United States, this will facilitate an integration in the future between the United States and the rest of Latin America. [end recording]

On the other hand, if NAFTA is foiled, not only Colombia but all of Latin America will be terribly disappointed.

[Begin recording] [Cesar de Hart, president the Association of Colombian Farmers] If NAFTA is not approved, the aspirations of Colombia and South America to join the U.S. market through the G-3 [Group of Three] will be foiled.

[Analyst Jorge Ramirez] This would confirm a very protectionist stand by the United States and the long-range outlook of a Free Trade Agreement to include Latin America would become much more remote and much more difficult to attain. [end recording]

U.S. citizens are very divided in their stand, but the truth is that Latin Americans harbor the hope that at the last moment, the United States will not turn its back on them.

Area Leaders Send Messages Supporting NAFTA

FL1111155993 Bridgetwon CANA in English 1411 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Washington, Nov 11, CANA—Hemispheric leaders, including Jamaica Prime Minister Percival Patterson, have voiced strong support for the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in a meeting at the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB].

The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras and Uruguay and the prime minister of Jamaica sent videotaped messages for airing before the conference in support of the agreement involving Mexico, the United States and Canada.

Other participants were U.S treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs Lawrence H. Summers, Mexican Under Secretary for International Trade Negotiations Herminion Blanco, and Inter-American Dialogue President Peter Hakim.

Lee H. Hamilton, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S House of Representatives, sent a message of support for NAFTA that was read to the audience of diplomats and experts from organizations dealing with hemispheric affairs.

"We view NAFTA as the first important step towards a hemispheric free-trade area with the potential to lift the standard of living of this hemisphere's people, thereby ensuring the spread of democracy and the maintenance of political stability," said Prime Minister Patterson.

Colombia and its South American neighbors support NAFTA "because we believe it's a critical step for the economic integration of the americas," said Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo.

"NAFTA is a continuation of the trade liberalization process under way throughout Latin America, including the negotiations of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), the Andean Pact (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Venuezuela), the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela), as well as the talks to reduce Central American and Caribbean tariffs," Gaviria Trujillo noted.

"Barely one week ago in Guatemala, the presidents of six Central American countries, including mine, Honduras, unanimously approved to give absolute support to NAFTA," said Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas.

Recalling that NAFTA was the central subject of a recent meeting of Latin American heads of state in Santiago, Chile, Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle said:

"If I could convey to the U.S Congress, to the people in business, to the labour unions, some kind of message, I would say that the rest of America is looking very keenly at this decision (on whether to approve NAFTA) because it can be a signal of better days for everybody."

Lacalle said they are not thinking in terms of one administration, of one government, but in terms of creating more stable economic relationships, and through that, more stable institutions, and stronger democracy all over America.

"We cannot underestimate how important NAFTA is as a symbolic message of inclusion and not of exclusion," said Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada in stressing the importance of the pact for hemispheric relations and the world economy.

"The dynamics of this (NAFTA) market will be so important that it will oblige other trading blocs around the world to start to bring down the walls which they are building in preparation for trade wars."

"NAFTA is more than a trade agreement," said IDB President Enrique V. Iglesias.

"It is a symbol of the determination of the united states to work together with Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada in a new area of democracy, prosperity and justice."

"The messages of today, of our heads of state, go beyond trade," he added.

"They refer to the implications of NAFTA on hemispheric relations, hopes and expectations."

"NAFTA is good for the United States, it is good for Canada, and it is good for Mexico," said Summers.

"It is also a test of the United States as a people: whether we will be governed by fear or guided by hope."

Blanco stressed NAFTA is crucial not only for the prosperity of Mexico but for the future of Latin America as well, since it is expected to include an accession clause for the other countries in the region.

Mexican Politicians React to Gore-Perot Debate

PA1111053993 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] There was reaction in Mexico and the United States one day after the debate on the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] between U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Texas millionaire Ross Perot. In Mexico City Jaime Enrique Felix, coordinator of the movement for democratic change in the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], said:

[Felix] "Our country's public image was hurt in one way or another during this debate."

Ramon Sosa Montes, of the PRD, said:

[Sosa] "We insist that Mexico cannot be part of a television show, as it was on 9 November and as it is now. It must reaffirm its sovereignty. As the PRD, we demand this."

Eberto Castillo, a member of the movement for democratic change in the PRD said:

[Castillo] "The Mexican Government should have filed an immediate protest rejecting the comments on our country's political system."

Oscar Mauro Ramirez, a member of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution and of the Assembly of Representatives, said:

[Ramirez] "Perot assumed a position against Mexico, against our social reality, against our culture, and against our forms of public and private political life."

(Marcelo Gacciola Felix), president of the Mexican Democratic Party, said during a news conference:

[Gacciola] "Perot was too harsh, too impertinent, and rude with us Mexicans."

Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, Popular Socialist Party press secretary, commented on 9 November's debate:

[Ortiz] "The picture of Mexico as depicted by the multimillionaire has nothing to do with the problem of the pact. His action comes, however, as a response to the blackmail attempts that we have denounced during the past few weeks."

Hector Teran Teran, National Action Party senator, said:

[Teran] "This really [four-second break in reception] tremendous lack of information about Mexico."

Deputy Jorge Calderon, coordinator of the PRD on NAFTA issues, said:

[Calderon] "For those of us who are Mexicans and love our fatherland, it was uncomfortable, almost unpleasant to listen to two U.S. politicians discussing what is the best way to exploit our country and obtain advantages from it." [passage omitted]

Mexican Group Demands Renegotiation of NAFTA

PA1011230993 Paris AFP in Spanish 2053 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Nov (AFP)— The Mexican Action Network Regarding Free Trade [Red Mexicana de Accion Frente al Libre Comercio—RMALC] demanded on 10 November renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] and

described as "misleading" the debate between U.S. Vice President Al Gore and businessman Ross Perot.

The members of the RMALC, an organization that groups union leaders and researchers, stated that a treaty has to recognize the asymmetries that exist among the economies of Mexico, the United States, and Canada and include social topics, such as immigration, human rights, and economic topics to upgrade workers' standard of living.

RMALC leader Bertha Lujan said the 9 November debate between Gore and Perot was "incomplete," because the businessman's position does not represent all those who oppose NAFTA in the United States and Mexico, as "it did not include the concerns of environmentalist, labor, and farm groups."

The anti-NAFTA networks in the United States, Canada, and Mexico are proposing, Lujan said, a renegotiation of the commercial agreement that would consider development with social justice.

RMALC announced it will begin a series of public actions, including a demonstration on 12 Novmeber outside the U.S. Embassy in Mexico and the creation of a parallel senate to express its views on NAFTA.

On 17 November, the U.S. Congress will vote on the commercial pact, whereas the Mexican Congress, dominated by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, will vote on an unspecified date. The Canadian Congress has already ratified it, but the new government would like to modify it. For NAFTA to take effect, the congresses from the three countries have to ratify it.

Caricom Disappointed Over NAFTA Omission

FL1111032193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2057 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Report by Wesley Kirton]

[Text] Washington, 10 Nov, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) member nations are disappointed at the omission of an equal-treatment measure from legislation on the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), says Tim Donaldson, The Bahamas' ambassador to the United States.

Donaldson told the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) that the Caribbean diplomatic caucas had recommended that regional heads of government consider dispatching a letter to United States President Bill Clinton expressing their disappointment over the omission. He said he was to discuss the recommendation with Caricom chairman, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham of The Bahamas.

U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, Donna Hrinak, told CANA that Clinton administration officials were of the view that "it was not the best strategy to include parity in the legislation at this time."

Well placed sources said White House officials spearheading Clinton's lobby to get the legislation passed on November 17 in the U.S. House of Representatives think any mention of parity for the Caribbean would hurt its already slim chances of victory. Recommendations submitted last week to Clinton by United States Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, following an inter-agency study of the impact of NAFTA on the economies of the Caribbean basin, acknowledged that the agreement would have short-term negative implications for the Caribbean.

The study, ordered last August by clinton during a summit at the White House with five Caricom leaders, recommended limited parity for the Caribbean, USTR officials told CANA. Hrinak said that there would be scope for NAFTA parity measures to be put in place for the Caribbean after the November 17 vote.

"President Clinton remains committed to ensuring that the Caribbean is not adversely affected by NAFTA and that they be a part of a future hemispheric free trade arrangement," she said.

"All isn't lost. To say we are surprised, no, ... but disappointed, yes. We really thought we could have had the parity measure put on the fast track," Donaldson said. Donaldson was part of a Caricom delegation headed by Jamaica's Foreign Minister Paul Robertson which met recently with Kantor to get an indication of the findings of the inter-agency study. The Bahamian envoy said Kantor indicated that he was unsure whether the parity measures he was recommending would be included in the implementing legislation.

"We have been lobbying for sometime to ensure that parity was included but unfortunately it seems there is little or no chance of that now. They say the inclusion of parity will hurt NAFTA's chances of passing. The Caribbean, with its limited resources here in Washington, has no way of undertaking the kind of effort that would accurately determine that. We don't know whether that is true but we have no way of finding out," Donaldson said.

The ambassador said there remained tremendous goodwill in the U.S. administration and the Congress for parity measures for the Caribbean and he expected that bills introduced earlier this year by Congressman Sam Gibbons and Senator Bob Graham would be reintroduced early next year when the U.S. Congress reconvenes.

"Some members of Congress, particularly the Florida delegation, will address the abscence of parity measures when they speak on the vote next week," he said. There is just one week to go before the crucial NAFTA vote.

PRI Senator Condemns Perot's 'Offensive' Remarks

PA1211013993 Paris AFP in Spanish 2349 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Nov (AFP)—In response to remarks about Mexico by former U.S. presidential candidate Ross Perot, a senator of the Mexican ruling party today requested before the Senate that foreigners who "commit unfriendly actions against Mexico" be expelled and that foreigners who "bear ill will" toward Mexico be prohibited from entering the nation.

The ruling party legislator made the request in reference to Tuesday's debate between U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Perot on CNN about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which will be voted on by the U.S. Congress on 17 November.

According to a communique issued by the Senate, Hector Olivares said "remarks that are offensive to Mexico and the Mexicans were made" during the debate, making one consider the possibility of "expressly prohibiting the entry into the country of those who abroad devote themselves to insulting and offending Mexico."

Perot criticized the Mexican political system and the workers' economic and labor situation. The majority of the country's political parties and social and business sectors considered Perot's remarks as being offensive to Mexico.

The senator from the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) said that to expel or prevent the entry of offensive foreigners, Article 33 of the Constitution "establishes the possibility of expelling pernicious foreigners," while adding, "this provision also covers those who are already among us and commit unfriendly actions against Mexico."

Out of a total of 64 senators in the Mexican Senate, 61 belong to the PRI, which has been in power for 64 years. Two others belong to the center-left Party of the Democratic Revolution, and one to the conservative National Action Party.

Olivares, son of the Mexican ambassador to the Vatican and former leader of the National Peasant Confederation, condemned "the biased remarks which, although made during a domestic discussion, affect the respect that neighboring countries deserve."

He also said "we condemn" Perot's statements "because they are laden with racism and intolerance," adding that "we reject them because of the disrespect and ignorance" they express.

The Mexican Senate also will vote on NAFTA at a still undetermined date. Its approval is taken for granted because of the PRI's overwhelming majority in the Senate.

Government To Deport 31 Illegal Aliens to PRC

PA1011173293 Paris AFP in Spanish 0402 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Nov (AFP)—The Mexican Government, in consultation with the PRC Embassy, "is making preparations" to send to Beijing a group of 31 illegal Chinese nationals who had already been deported from Mexico on Saturday, the Interior Ministry reported on Monday.

In a press communique, the Ministry reported that the illegal aliens arrived in Mexico in October via the southern border. Their transfer had been agreed upon by that nation's embassy and Lufthansa airlines. According to the plan, the Chinese nationals would travel from Mexico to Frankfurt, Germany, where they would change planes and continue on to Beijing. Nevertheless, after two hours flight time the aircraft landed in Atlanta, where the 31 Asians disembarked, the communique indicated.

The communique adds that the landing was "a unilateral decision" resulting from "a minor incident" caused by the "verbal insistence" of some of the Chinese nationals that alcoholic beverages be served. This made "one of the flight attendants and the captain extremely nervous." According to the official report, the captain felt "the situation was potentially dangerous. Therefore he decided to make an unscheduled landing to offload the Chinese nationals." The official report indicated that the United States agreed to receive the group as in transit passengers and Lufthansa agreed to return the Asians to the Mexican capital.

The report concluded: "The group is currently in the custody of Mexican immigration authorities," adding that the repatriation would take place "once the necessary security guarantees and the safeguard of the Chinese nationals' rights is ensured."

Cubans Granted 72-Hour Permit To Repair Vessel

PA1111202393 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Mexican immigration authorities granted a 72-hour ship repair permit to the 20 Cubans whose ship went aground off the coast of Quintana Roo. The Cubans have not requested political asylum in Mexico and indicated they are only interested in reaching Miami.

Belize

Government Raises Taxes To Cover Revised Budget

FL1111160693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1548 GMT 93

[Text] Belize City, 11 Nov, CANA—The Belize Government has increased taxes on a range of items including beer and rum, airline tickets and vehicle licences.

The government has increased the excise duty on locally produced beer from 9.88 Belize dollars (one bel. dollar ; about 49 US cents) per imperial gallon to 13.54 dollars per gallon. There has been a 26 cent increase on a 10 ounce local or imported bottle of beer.

Locally produced rum was increased from 18 dollars a gallon to 34 dollars, resulting in a one dollar increase per quart of rum.

Imported rum has been increased by two dollars.

By amending the Stamp Duty Act, the government has implemented a two per cent across the board increase on imports.

The cost of airline tickets purchased in Belize increased by 10 dollars.

Motor vehicle licences, with the exception of taxi licences, have been increased by 25 per cent.

The tax hike aims to raise funds to supplement the government's revised fiscal budget of 347.4 million dollars for the current fiscal year.

The revised budget was presented to the House of Representatives last Friday.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Manuel Esquivel said the new budget was necessary because the previous one had become inadequate and would have ended up with a huge deficit.

Costa Rica

Calderon, Niehaus Justify Vote Against U.S. Embargo

PA1111164693 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 5 Nov 93 p 5A

[Report by Nelson Murillo]

[Text] In justifying Costa Rica's vote at the United Nations in favor of lifting the economic blockade against Cuba, Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said yesterday that the government is seeking "a certain rapprochement" with that Caribbean nation because the transition from communism to democracy must be peaceful.

Niehaus stressed that he does not support the totalitarian system imposed by Fidel Castro on the island from 1959 and he urged the nations of America to "play a more active role" to prevent bloodshed during the process of democratic strengthening the Cuban people so desire.

Niehaus pointed out that in keeping with international law Costa Rica's alternate UN Ambassador Jose Maria Borbon on 3 November supported a motion to condemn the economic blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba, which is not binding for any country.

He said that at the third Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Brazil in July, the presidents opposed the implementation of bilateral economic measures by one state against another because of the effect it could have on international trade and because it entails meddling in the internal affairs of a given nation.

Moreover, the foreign minister said, at the 14th summit of Central American presidents in Guatemala last week, Costa Rica offered to mediate a peaceful solution to the Cuban problem. "We must make a joint effort to guarantee the defense of democracy, human rights and freedom in Cuba," the foreign minister said.

Meanwhile, Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon justified his country's support of a motion presented by Cuba to lift the economic blockade imposed by the United States. He said the proposal—approved by 88 nations and rejected by 57 with four abstentions—was approved because it is "consistent" with the summit held in Brazil. "Change should be peaceful; sooner or later we are all going to have a democratic Cuba," said President Calderon, noting that "we have not and will not" establish diplomatic relations with the island."

In the opinion of Mr. Rios, the director of the International Affairs College at the National University (UNA), our country's support of the suspension of the trade embargo on Cuba implies "a radical change in Costa Rican foreign policy." He said the changes Cuba is demanding will not come immediately but, he added, if the blockade is ended there will be a greater opportunity to exert international pressure to establish a democratic government in that nation.

Rios thinks it is feasible for the Castro regime to "gradually become more flexible, which is an important step toward change."

Calderon Laments State of U.S. Relations, Views Disputes

PA1011232693 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2109 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] San Jose, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon today admitted that, within the past few months, relations with the United States have suffered their worst deterioration in history. He added, however, that current efforts are being made to restore "normal and fraternal ties."

The president said that during the past two weeks Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus and a delegation that is

in Washington "have held frank talks, and we think it is necessary to restore the fraternal relations of cooperation that existed before."

Calderon ruled out the possibility of his country being punished by way of an amendment because of several expropriations made some 15 years ago—expropriations for which compensation has yet to be paid—or because of a suit filed by U.S. labor unions. A Costa Rican delegation headed by Vice President Arnoldo Lopez is negotiating on these issues.

Nevertheless, Calderon pointed out that the "Hickenlooper" Amendment could still be applied to Costa Rica, because the Constitutional Court ruled that a U.S. company involved in the cellular telephone business in Costa Rica for the past six years was operating illegally. Through this amendment, the United States could try to block $320 million in loans from the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] for the construction of a hydroelectric plant. It already tried to do this last year because of a dispute over expropriations.

Calderon said he will soon send to the legislature a bill to legalize operations of the "Milocon" company, which is involved in the cellular telephone business. He denied that this company will compete against services offered by the state-run Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE).

"It is a company that has operated for six years, and we cannot ask it to abandon its investment now," the head of state said. He added that ICE will develop cellular telephones mostly in the rural areas, and that it will start doing this within a few weeks.

As for expropriations still in dispute, Calderon ruled out the application of an amendment that could lead to economic retaliation and the blocking of IDB loans because five pending cases will be transferred to an international court—a move that was ratified by Costa Rica.

The president told the media that should Costa Rican labor unions continue to display "patriotic gestures," the suit filed by the AFL-CIO in the United States could be withdrawn. Should the AFL-CIO press ahead with this suit, which is based on an alleged lack of guarantees for organized labor, Costa Rica could be excluded from the Generalized System of Preferences by which it exports more than $400 million in goods to the United States annually.

The government and labor unions reached an agreement to request that the suit be withdrawn after approving a set of laws creating labor rights within the private sector to broaden the freedoms of organized labor.

Calderon said "there is no doubt we will win this dispute" in the U.S. Department of Commerce, but he added, "if we are going to win in the mid-term, why should Costa Rica's image be brought into question?" Calderon said these meetings are helping Costa Rica and the United States normalize relations which have grown colder than ever before.

Roundup of Economic Developments 9 Nov

PA1011165293

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Costa Rican economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

The Costa Rican Economy Ministry has announced that in October, the inflation rate grew in Costa Rica 0.96 percent. The annual accumulated inflation rate is 6.92 percent. The accumulated inflation rate for the same period in 1992 was 14.52 percent. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1704 GMT 2 Nov 93)

The Center for the Promotion of Exports reported today that Costa Rican exports grew 13 percent during the first 10 months of this year for a total of $2.148 billion, $681 million of which came from traditional exports—coffee, bananas, beef, and sugar. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2212 GMT 8 Nov 93)

The Costa Rican Foreign Trade Ministry reported on 8 November that foreign exchange derived from traditional exports dropped 2 percent during the first 10 months of the year compared to 1992. The fall in the traditional sector was compensated by a 25-percent increase in the nontraditional sector's exports, which has an accumulated total of $946,270,000. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2157 8 Nov 93)

The Center for the Promotion of Exports announced today that on 15 November Costa Rica will join the Central American Tariff system, which is already being implemented in all other regional countries. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0011 GMT 8 Nov 93)

El Salvador

Cristiani Criticizes U.S. Documents on El Salvdor

PA1111182793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1749 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Nov (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today severely criticized some documents on death squads that the U.S. State Department, the Pentagon, and CIA declassified on 5 November. Cristiani said he will permit "no foreign influence."

During a news conference in the presence of Vice President Francisco Merino and Defense Minister Colonel Humberto Corado, Cristiani said: "We will conduct a legal study to determine whether or not international treaties dealing with espionage have been violated."

Both Merino and Armando Calderon Sol, former mayor of San Salvador and candidate for president for Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], were linked to the death squads in an article carried by THE NEW YORK TIMES and based on official reports declassified by the government in Washington on 5 November.

Cristiani pointed out that "our country is sovereign" and that "we will permit no foreign intervention in the Salvadoran election process," which will culminate with general elections on 20 March.

Cristiani's remarks came after Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, who is in El Salvador on a visit, played down the importance of the documents declassified by his government.

Following meetings with government officials and political and former guerrilla leaders on Wednesday, Watson maintained that the accusations against Vice President Francisco Merino and candidate Calderon are linked to "embassy reports" the importance of which "must not be exaggerated."

Cristiani deplored that information is being handled "in an unscrupulous and biased" way. He recalled that in 1992, another U.S. Embassy report, following an attack on 31 December 1991, erroneously stated that an Armed Forces officer had carried it out. "Undoubtedly, that report will be included in the documents that the State Department is declassifying," documents that are not the result of "serious" investigations but are based on "hearsay." "Consequently, we give no validity to them."

Cristiani said that he is willing to investigate "any political violence," such as that which has been affecting El Salvador in recent weeks when unidentified men shot two former leftist guerrilla commanders and two FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] activists, as well as a member of the ruling Arena.

Further on Cristiani's Comments

PA1111194793 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From the "Period, Same Paragraph" newscast]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has said he has trust in Vice President Francisco Merino's loyalty. Cristiani said that the charges against Merino are ridiculous. According to CIA documents, Merino organized a plot against the president. Cristiani said that these reports disclosed by the U.S. Government are part of a dirty campaign against Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. President Cristiani added that Clifford Krauss' article for THE NEW YORK TIMES has been a vehicle in this dirty campaign. Nevertheless, the president said he did not know who was behind this campaign in El Salvador. The Salvadoran Government has disqualified the intelligence documents. Those documents are political information and not in-depth investigations like Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, has said. Watson met with President Cristiani yesterday.

Let us hear an excerpt of President Cristiani's news conference:

[Begin Cristiani recording, in progress] ...positions of the government of the Republic regarding the issue of disqualifying those documents as part of the U.S. Government. We have heard Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, say that these documents are political documents and not the result of an investigation, much less a serious investigation. He said that these are simply reports that the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador sends on various subjects; however, these are only things they hear, rumors, or hearsay, and not the result of investigations.

Likewise, and as Watson said, these documents were made available to the Truth Commission. All of you know the Truth Commission, and none of the cases they are talking about now were accepted as valid by the Truth Commission. In this sense, we regret that an unscrupulous and biased tone has been given to this information that was released recently. [end recording]

FMLN Leader Gonzalez Comments on U.S. Documents

PA1011155093 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Nov 93

[From the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Excerpts] Leonel Gonzalez reported on Monday that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] will meet with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding to convey their concern for the critical situation in the country.

The FMLN leader also said UN Security Council pressure was necessary to advance the process of implementation of the peace agreements in El Salvador as several of its points have been severely delayed.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] With him [Goulding], we have already prepared work meetings. We plan to analyze the Salvadoran situation. We are very worried. We believe it is a critical situation and that the United Nations must analyze the country's situation because, I believe the country will need some more pressure from the UN Security Council.

We also hope that with Mr. Goulding's arrival we will be able to complete the investigative mechanisms as the report from the UN secretary general contains all the basic elements, but we believe that Mr. Goulding must begin to complete them and set them into operation.

The other aspect that we would discuss is returning to the path of the peace agreements regarding land [distribution], the PNT [Transition National Police], reintegration [of fighters into civilian life], and the Truth Commission recommendations. [end recording]

Referring to the announcement made by the White House regarding the delivery of documents about human rights violations in the country, Leonel Gonzalez said it was a very important step. The member of the FMLN National Council said the U.S. Government has already released 90 percent of the documents on the activities of the death squads in El Salvador. Leonel Gonzalez said these documents can and should help eradicate the ominous death squads because, if they are not eradicated, the general elections to be held next year will not be held freely.

Calls for Calderon Sol Withdrawal

PA1011195893 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Nov 93

[From the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Text] The documents disclosed by the U.S. Government could serve to investigate the death squads as recommended by the Truth Commission, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leader Leonel Gonzalez said today. He said the Truth Commission recommendations should be heeded because this is a pledge that President Alfredo Cristiani made. Therefore, investigations should be conducted to eradicate these groups and the Peace Commission should watch the procedures carefully, he said.

Regarding the possibility of Armando Calderon Sol relinquishing his presidential candidacy, Gonzalez said there are no legal requirements but that there are moral regulations, which should govern the actions of the government party's candidate.

In addition, Christian Democratic Party deputy Aristides Alvarenga has asked Calderon Sol to withdraw his candidacy for president because of his links to the death squads. Alvarenga said Calderon Sol should resign although this resignation proves detrimental to his personal interests. Alvarenga said that a person with a criminal background, such as Calderon Sol, is not fit to be president.

Juan Jose Marcel said that this information should not be used for the political campaign because the idea is to investigate and eradicate the death squads. Marcel also said that, if Calderon Sol is a death squad leader, he should resign his post.

Finally, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] deputy Gloria Salguero Gross rejected the politicians' arguments for Calderon Sol's resignation as candidate.

Vice President Merino Denies Links to Death Squads

PA1011235193 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2036 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino today categorically denied having links to the outlawed death squads, as stated in a U.S. intelligence report. The report was published in an attempt to contribute to the resolution of the last political crimes in this nation.

During a news conference at the international airport in San Salvador, Merino, visibly shaken and annoyed, attacked the article published on 9 November in THE NEW YORK TIMES. The item includes part of the documents released by the U.S. Government on the Salvadoran war. These reports link Merino with leaders of the radical right clandestine groups, which sowed terror during that nation's 12-year war (1980-92).

"The news is clearly biased against the governments of President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush. I do not know if the reporter who signed the article is here," Merino said.

Merino added that Washington's confidential files on El Salvador were opened "in the midst of a preelectoral campaign. The report refers to cases that occurred at the beginning of the 1980's and attempts to involve leaders of the Arena (Nationalist Republican Alliance, right wing) Party."

According to the information published, Merino planned in 1981 a kidnapping at the home of current ARENA presidential candidate Armando Calderon Sol. The publication stated that both men are two of the main leaders of the "death squads," which during the past war murdered leftist movement activists as well as Catholic religious and lay members.

Merino attacked THE NEW YORK TIMES reporter who wrote the article and said that he "undoubtedly earns large amounts of dollars, certainly much more than all of us who are here." Merino added: "Who pays him? He must be asked, but have no doubts that he earns more than all of you," he told the reporters who were present.

The vice president gave the news conference shortly after arriving in El Salvador after having attended the official ceremony marking the 500th anniversary of Puerto Rico's discovery.

Merino urged the media to act with responsibility, adding "we must balance objectively the information's reality; otherwise, what will happen to democracy's consolidation, economic development, and above all the aid to the nation's most needy?"

Meanwhile, presidential candidate Armando Calderon Sol also denied having ties to the outlawed groups and regarding the accusations said: "I couldn't care less." Calderon Sol added that the accusation's sole aim is to

"manipulate the electoral process" and harm his image in light of the 20 March general elections.

Further on Vice President's Denial

PA1211001393 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino has rejected accusations made against him by the U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES, claiming that they are part of a "campaign by political sectors (of the United States) against the country."

Upon his arrival in El Salvador from Puerto Rico at noon yesterday, Merino said: "This is a plot by a political sector that views with suspicion our country's advances."

The vice president described as "biased" the report accusing him of belonging to "death squads." The report was published by THE NEW YORK TIMES based on 12,000 confidential documents recently declassified by the U.S. Government.

According to Merino, the newspaper's report "summarizes thousands of documents in a few paragraphs." He added: "This is not serious journalism. It is not objective. Moreover, it does not mention the achievements we have made.... What about the peace process and economic reactivation?"

The declassification of Washington's confidential files on El Salvador has come in the general context of a preelection period. The files refer to cases beginning in the early 1980's, and they attempt to implicate leaders of Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance].

Merino said: "The U.S. Government is extremely respectful, but there are different levels of officials and some who disagree with our democratization process.... What is being plotted behind the backs of the Salvadoran people?"

He added: "This plot has a name: It is outrageous, it is slanderous, and we are here to be investigated."

Merino also said he believes "death squads" do exist and are responsible for murders.

Says NEW YORK TIMES Report 'Libelous'

PA1111043093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino has described as libelous the report published by THE NEW YORK TIMES, which revealed part of the 12,000 intelligence documents declassified by the U.S. Government. The newspaper article stated that the CIA has confidential information linking Vice President Merino with the organization and financing of the death squads.

On his return from Puerto Rico, the vice president expressed his indignation against the writer of THE NEW YORK TIMES' article who, through documents declassified by the CIA, linked him to the organization and financing of death squads. According to Merino, this can only be called one thing:

[Begin Merino recording] This plot can only be called one thing—slander; it is libel. We are here to be investigated. [end recording]

Merino said the existence of death squads in the country is a reality and that proof of this is the many deaths since the beginning of the 1980's; nevertheless, he said that these come from uncontrolled groups of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], the Armed Forces, and other organizations that sought solutions through violence. He affirmed that he does not know who their members are.

[Begin Merino recording] This is what must be investigated. I do not know who sponsors them, and I do not know who they are. Let's investigate this together if they want, but we have to put an end to them, because there can be no more violence in the country. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Vice President Merino said the information published by THE NEW YORK TIMES is a situation that was provoked by the country's left, something that he believes does not worry the government, because this is just part of a political game about which no one should be surprised.

Nevertheless, the death squads topic will continue to be in the news until concrete investigations reveal whether they exist.

FMLN-CD Denies Pressing U.S. To Release Death Squad Reports

PA1211045293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Report by Julio Menendez from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Apparently, the release of important secret U.S. documents that allege the participation of several local politicians in clandestine groups during the past decade will be on the nation's political agenda for quite some time.

Francisco Lima, the vice presidential candidate of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Democratic Convergence [FMLN-CD] coalition, contends that the above-mentioned documents should be carefully studied. He adds that the people who are investigating the illegal armed groups have to take this new information into account during their investigations. In this respect, Lima's proposal has only one objective:

[Begin Lima recording] In other words, we believe the recently released documents and their contents will

provide more information than is currently known. We have to get to the point where we know everything. [end recording]

According to Dr. Lima, the FMLN-CD coalition is not interested in accusing the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] presidential candidate in connection with the charges that have been made against him, nor does it want to turn the issue into a political battle-cry.

[Begin Lima recording] These documents also contain information that has to be used to further investigate several events in which the FMLN was involved, just as these events were studied by the Truth Commission. FMLN members, however have said: We are not afraid of the results of this report, regardless of what comes out, as long as it is the truth. [end recording]

Lima says that at no time did his leftist coalition apply pressure to get the documents released a few days before the startup of the electoral campaign. He adds that this was a decision made solely by the U.S. Government.

U.S. Said To Release Documents

PA1211043093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[From the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Right-wing ideologue Kirio Waldo Salgado has asserted that the U.S. Government is behind a plot to discredit Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, a candidate who, according to the most recent polls, has a good chance of being elected to the presidency of the Republic.

Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Alexander Watson has said that the declassification of secret State Department and CIA documents regarding U.S. policy toward El Salvador during the past decade was never aimed at creating political instability in El Salvador. Dr. Salgado, however, believes that all of this was planned and is part of a plot between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and powerful U.S. sectors to keep Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, the candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, from winning the upcoming elections.

[Begin Salgado recording] First and foremost, the clear-cut purpose is to keep Armando Calderon Sol from winning the presidency. This objective, of course, became necessary because the most recent polls were unable to hide Calderon Sol's growing popularity among the Salvadoran people. [end recording]

Regarding the secret information released, President Cristiani has said it will undergo a judicial review to determine if the U.S. Government was engaged in espionage during the past decade. Salgado solidly backed this position.

[Begin Salgado recording] I am happy that President Cristiani is finally putting things in their place. For some time now we have been the victims of systematic manipulation by foreigners who are bent on infringing on our sovereignty. Here, foreign forces and imperialist forces have been sticking their noses into everything. [end recording]

Dr. Salgado said that for decades our country has been an instrument of U.S. foreign policy, and that with its interference here the United States has continued its manipulation, especially in the political sphere. He added that if we want to leave all of this behind, the thousands of documents presented by the U.S. Government should be reviewed as soon as possible.

FMLN Leader Fears Violence

PA1211052293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Report by Edwin Gongora from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Miguel Saenz, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, has warned that political violence could worsen unless a thorough investigation into the death squads is conducted with all the intelligence information available through the U.S. Government.

Saenz said the climate of political violence could worsen if the information on the death squads made available during the past few days is not used to support a serious investigation.

[Begin Saenz recording, in progress] ...unless the government really shows its willingness and determination to conduct the investigations; and third, unless all social and political groups in the country adopt a firm political position against all of the civilians and military personnel who oppose the process, there is a serious risk that political violence might increase in the country. [end recording]

The FMLN hopes that the declassification of all of the reports U.S. intelligence compiled on the death squads during the past decade will serve to bring before the law those people who promoted the illegal groups. Saenz also criticized the opinion expressed by President Cristiani, who described the intelligence reports as a type of foreign espionage that violates national sovereignty.

[Begin Saenz recording] At this point in time, I believe we should not give too much importance to determining whether this constitutes espionage or not, whether it violates the country's sovereignty, whether it is part of a campaign to discredit someone, or whether it is an electoral ploy directed against the Nationalist Republican Alliance. I believe these are merely attempts to evade the real issue. What we should actually be saying is this: Very well, we have documents that can be helpful in the investigations; therefore, we will go right ahead and unmask the real promoters of the death squads. [end recording]

Saenz said there will be a meeting on 12 November with UN special envoy Marrack Goulding at the offices of the UN Observers for El Salvador to analyze the political crisis caused by the murder of several leftist leaders.

Cristiani Says U.S. Documents To Prompt Espionage Probe

PA1211050293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Nov 93

[From the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has joined with other government and right-wing sectors in reacting angrily to the documents declassified by U.S. authorities. In light of the release of the documents, Cristiani said his government will not permit any type of foreign espionage in the country's confidential matters.

This is the president's first reaction to the declassification of U.S. intelligence documents, which he described as not very serious and without any validity.

[Begin Cristiani recording] They are not the result of serious investigations. They are the result of what has been heard, hearsay, and so on. This is why we are giving them no credibility until irrefutable proof is provided for what is being said or claimed. [end recording]

In view of public knowledge of information linking Vice President Francisco Merino to death squads, Cristiani said that his government will investigate the existence of international espionage in El Salvador, because this would violate international treaties. The report accuses Merino of having participated with military officers in a plot last year to overthrow Cristiani, who today rejected the accusation and reaffirmed his confidence in the vice president and the Armed Forces.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We have had and continue to have confidence in the work and the loyalty of Vice President Merino. We consider ridiculous the accusation that the vice president has been plotting to assassinate the president of the Republic. If this were the case, I would not even be talking to you now. At no time has the Presidency or the General Command of the Armed Forces felt any fear in light of the attitude of the Armed Forces as an institution. That is false. [end recording]

The president, who was accompanied at the beginning of his news conference by Merino and Defense Minister Humberto Corado, said that an unscrupulous and political slant has been given to the released information with the aim of attacking Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. He also warned that he will not permit any interference in the Salvadoran electoral process.

Retired General Comments on U.S. Reports on Death Squads

PA1111052093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Retired General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas has said the recently declassified U.S. intelligence documents do not contain any hard evidence against the people who have been mentioned. In the past two days, the nation's political scenario has been turned upside down. There are accusations and counteraccusations among the various political forces in light of the release of important documents in which high-ranking ARENA [National Republican Alliance] members are linked to illegal armed groups of the 1980's. Now, even the military men who led the Armed Forces during the war are commenting the issue. Here is what Gen. Vargas said:

[Begin Vargas recording] These documents lack hard facts. This is why they are called intelligence reports. This is not a processed document that contains true evidence. What exists is information given by John Doe. The source must be analyzed to assess its credibility. [end recording]

In light of the changing political situation, Gen. Vargas said that these documents should have been presented to the nation's courts for due process. This, however, did not occur. The general appeared surprised as to why the Truth Commission had not take into account this information when several individuals, for whom sanctions were requested, were being investigated. Why, he asked, is this being made public now?

[Begin Vargas recording] The timing of these documents' release seems fishy. This whole situation smells rotten. I feel that the goal, at this moment in time, is truly something else. [end recording]

Gen. Vargas, who retired from the military last year after 30 years of service, also said that, although the political parties agreed to wage a clean campaign in the 1994 elections, the release of these documents could be turned into a political and ideological debate that will not benefit the candidates in any way whatsoever.

Copaz Members Want Access to U.S. Documents on Death Squads

PA1111042293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Report by William Melendez from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] In an effort to open a probe into clandestine armed groups, FMLN [Farabundo National Liberation Front] and Democratic Convergence representatives within the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] have asked the U.S. Government to turn over recently declassified CIA documents that deal with the promoters of Salvadoran death squads. The

leftist representatives pointed out that they will not use the controversial documents for propaganda purposes.

Only a few days before the start of the electoral campaign, the U.S. Government made public 12,000 documents linking Vice President Francisco Merino and the presidential candidate for ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] to clandestine armed groups.

Leonel Gonzalez of the FMLN and Juan Jose Martell of Democratic Convergence believe this information must be made public in El Salvador to ensure that investigations to eliminate the death squads start on a solid footing:

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] We will present an initiative within Copaz. We want all of the documents the United States has declassified to become the basis, or at least part of the basis, for investigations into death squad activities—investigations now being conducted by a team set up by the UN secretary general.

[Martell] I think these documents should be made available not only to Copaz but perhaps to all of Salvadoran society. [end recording]

According to Arena Deputy Gloria Salguero, the documents that have created such a commotion can only be requested from the Clinton administration by way of the government of President Alfredo Cristiani. Here is why a request must be channeled through the Cristiani government:

[Begin Salguero recording, in progress] ...government. It cannot be channeled through institutions or independent organizations in El Salvador. When an official matter is involved, the request must be made from government to government and not by way of other institutions. [end recording]

Copaz politicians have not yet issued a position on the revelations made in the United States, but most of its members agree on the need to investigate such groups.

Assembly President on U.S. Documents, Propaganda, ARENA

PA1111042193 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Report by Hilda Quijano; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Legislative Assembly President Roberto Angulo has asked the U.S. Government to avoid using propaganda with the documents that were declassified by U.S. intelligence, from which the leftist sectors could benefit. According to Angulo, U.S. authorities should have more respect for ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and not release information that has not been proven and that could hurt the image of its leaders.

Even though Angulo does not blame the Clinton administration for trying to create propaganda with the declassified documents, he does believe releasing the reports will politically benefit the left wing sectors and could have an influence in the March 1994 elections.

[Begin Angulo recording] We expect from the Clinton administration a respect for the people's decision. We do not believe the president is trying to influence the people in favor of other parties and against our party, but just as we are respectful of the decisions made by the American people, they should also be respectful of the Salvadoran people's decisions. [end recording]

The assembly president paid no importance to the documents released this week, and he described their release as a strategy in poor taste, which benefits the interests of the Salvadoran political left. Angulo said that despite the discredit to which Arena and its presidential candidate are being subjected, he will not give up his aspirations, because the people know him and support him.

[Begin Angulo recording] The Salvadoran people know their people. The Salvadoran people know what Dr. Armando Calderon Sol is capable of doing. They know what he has done; they know what kind of an official he is, and they know what kind of a head of a family he is and what kind of son he is. [end recording]

Angulo said the opposition will use the publication of the secret documents, even though the reports do not prove their validity.

FMLN Spokesman Says Murder of 3 'Mockery' by Death Squads

PA1011213393 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "Period, Same Paragraph" newscast]

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] Spokesman Juan Ramon Medrano has said that the murder of three people—an FMLN member among them—yesterday is a mockery by the death squads in light of the arrival of UN expert Marrack Goulding to El Salvador.

[Begin Medrano recording] We have learned that three bodies were found yesterday; one was found in Apopa, another one in Soyapango, and the third one in Las Margaritas. In the latter two cases, we have the names of the victims. One of them was Remberto Antonio Lopez, and the other Manuel de Jesus Acevedo. Acevedo was a former combatant for the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers. He had also been the driver of FMLN Commander Nidia Diaz and was the common-law husband of a member of the FMLN Board of Directors in Soyapango. This is another case that can be linked directly with the FMLN. What concerns us is the violence used in these cases: The bodies were tied up and showed signs of torture.

Consequently, this is not a matter of simply demanding an investigation. We are waiting for the results of Mr. Goulding's visit, which constitutes a special UN effort, because this gentleman comes only when the situation is critical. We are waiting and hoping this effort will yield immediate results.

We are not mistaken. We believe that the solution is in the hands of President Cristiani, the government, and the United Nations, but these murders—which have occurred now that Goulding is in El Salvador—constitute a mockery to Cristiani, the United Nations, and the people. I believe that these small groups, made up of [word indistinct] Salvadorans, are seeking to generate mistrust in the entire process. [end recording]

Politicians Commment on Visit by UN Representative Goulding

PA1111130493 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 5

[Text] Politicians from different factions stated yesterday that the arrival of UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding to evaluate the peace process was positive. Deputies Julio Gamero (Arena) [Nationalist Republican Alliance], Ciro Cruz Zepeda (PCN) [National Conciliation Party], and Juan Jose Martel (CD) [Democratic Convergence], agreed in stating that the presence of the UN official is positive. They, however, have different opinions on compliance with the peace accords.

We admit, said Arena Deputy Julio Gamero, that there have been delays in the compliance of several agreements. However, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] is the only one that has not kept the only agreement that had to be complied with—disarmament—and this has generated international rejection. Gamero added that the United Nations itself understands the reasons for the government delays in complying with the agreements. For example, he stated, the international community promised to finance the Civilian National Police project but it has not responded as expected. Thus, the government has had to finance most of the project and it's lack of economic resources has caused the delay. Regarding Goulding's visit, Julio Gamero asserted: "Every time he has been with us, his cooperation has been valuable to the peace process."

Meanwhile, for PCN Deputy Ciro Cruz Zepeda, Goulding's presence could also help stop the criminal actions carried out by small groups, which do not understand that the Salvadoran people want peace, that have to be dismantled because they do not benefit the country. On this point, Cruz Zepeda expressed optimism because "those people, who most surely intend to attack political leaders to trigger uncertainty and negatively affect the electoral process, will be controlled" when the U.S. secret files on the so-called death squads are opened. The Salvadoran Government, he added, can trust the information yielded by U.S. investigations because it was not obtained arbitrarily. Cruz Zepeda invited both the government and the FMLN to comply with the peace agreements.

However, for CD Deputy Juan Jose Martel, the peace accords have been placed on the back burner due to the proximity of the electoral process. "The political parties' eyes are only set on electoral issues. They do not give any importance to compliance with the peace agreements, especially the Truth Commission's recommendations. Lack of compliance with those recommendations has prompted regrettable consequences such as the murder of FMLN political leaders. We are concerned because the country is about to enter a period of intense electoral activity. [no close quotation marks as published] In this respect, Martel emphasized the importance of Goulding's presence to promote the peace process and the U.S. Government decision to help discover the death squads organizations, which he said, will allow for an electoral bout without regrettable incidents.

Workers Union Comments

PA1111162993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal; from the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] The Salvadoran Government has interpreted the visit to El Salvador by Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general, and Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, as proof of the international community's support for the peace process. However, the National Union of Salvadoran Workers [UNTS] believes the presence in the country of the two officials represents a way to draw attention to the dangers facing the country's political stability. UNTS believes the peace agreements are being held at a standstill by groups they describe as ultra-rightist supported by large land owners and wealthy families. UNTS adds that these groups act with impunity in the country attempting to frighten the supporters of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We believe that those acts of violence are aimed at hindering the upcoming elections. They are afraid because the recent polls show that support for the political opposition is growing and this endangers their stay in power and affects their political and economic interests. [end recording]

UNTS has also demanded that President Alfredo Cristiani conduct a real investigation into the origin and members of the death squads. According to the UNTS leaders, the visit by Marrack Goulding and Alexander Watson is clear proof of the dangers facing the Salvadoran peace process.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in progress] ...so that the peace process is not delayed or endangered and

instead contribute to ensuring that improvements to the Salvadoran state and for the Salvadoran people are possible. [end recording]

On another matter, UNTS said that the National Telecommunications Administration [Antel] authorities have not conducted an investigation into telephone tapping and they have asked Antel President Saul Suster to look into this matter.

Copaz Says Institutions Blocking Probes Into Velis Slaying

PA1111024193 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Nov 93

[From the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Text] The Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] special subpanel in charge of probing the recent murder of Francisco Velis, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, claims that investigations into the Velis killing are being blocked by some institutions of the country. Nevertheless, Lazaro Tadeo Bernal, the subpanel's coordinator, has provided no details concerning which institutions are blocking the investigations aimed at locating the people behind Velis' slaying. Bernal said the Copaz subpanel will issue a report on this situation on 11 November.

Presidential Candidates Discuss U.S. Relations

PA1111015793 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Nov 93

[From the "Election News" segment of the "Facing the Moment" newscast—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The United States has undoubtedly played a determinant role in the nation's situation. In 1980, this world power decided to sink this country into war, but it later opted for a negotiated solution after realizing that 10 years had gone by and that this war could not be stopped. This is why it is interesting to know how the presidential candidates view our relations with the United States.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] maintained a strong alliance with the United States, but, more than anything else, this relationship was based on waging war. We asked PDC presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena how he would conduct relations with the United States should be become president.

[Chavez] "Basically, the three areas I would concentrate on are: 1) everything pertaining to economic and financial cooperation required by the nation for the next few years; 2) an immigration policy to ensure, by investing in people, that Salvadorans here continue to work, and which would examine the situation of Salvadorans in the country; 3) an agreement to fight narcotics. We cannot allow this country to be used as a bridge for narcotics or allow the drug trafficking problem to worsen. Finally, I would look at the environmental issue, which is of interest to both countries."

The Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] has repeatedly questioned the United States and its alliance to the PDC. Nevertheless, Alfredo Cristiani, since becoming president, has maintained good relations with this world power, even to the extent of yielding to U.S. pressure to negotiate with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. ARENA presidential candidate Armando Calderon Sol was the only politician who openly opposed President Bill Clinton's victory. Calderon Sol, however, has tried to forget this. When asked about this, he categorically denies having made any statement along these lines. Here is how he would conduct relations with the United States should be become president:

[Calderon] "They would be relations based on true friendship. They would be respectful relations that are true to the dignity of El Salvador. The United States of America has been a true ally of our country. It is a great nation, a great nation where many Salvadorans reside and contribute to daily life.

"I think there should be a close relationship with the United States. I also would say that it is not only the world's most important country, with a marvelous and fabulous market, but it is also the largest international market. For us, it could be and, in fact, certainly should be part of our future, because the United States can be our partner by way of its enormous market. I think we should have a close relationship with the United States."

Let us move onto Ruben Zamora, a strong candidate who is second in the polls. Zamora was a strong critic of the warmongering attitude of past U.S. administrations. How would he conduct relations with the United States should he become president?

[Zamora] "I think these relations should be in keeping with the new situation. The United States no longer bases its foreign relations on national anti-Communist security considerations, because the Soviet Union no longer exists. This allows us to focus on resolving our problems. We do have common interests: The establishment of a genuine civilian democracy in El Salvador and long-term development. Only in this way will the entire continent achieve stability."

Guatemala

Government Rejects Constituent Assembly Proposal

PA1011172993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] The government rules out calling a National Constituent Assembly, Hector Luna Troccoli, Presidency secretary general, said yesterday while commenting on several Congress deputies' intention to stop the referendum.

"I am against a National Constituent Assembly, as the Constitution is the law of laws, the legal base for every state. The Constitution has only been in force for six years, therefore it is premature to decide if it has deficiencies," he noted. The government official acknowledged that some changes should be made but not the way the parliamentaries want, as these changes would be counterproductive for many sectors. Likewise, he said he would not approve a Constituent Assembly composed of the same parties or of the same Congress members.

Luna Troccoli noted that soon he will make known his constitutional reforms prepared by a group of legal experts who worked on this voluntarily. Among the reforms are: changing the pretrial procedure, eliminating secret accounts, and providing support to institutions that cooperate on eliminating corruption (Attorney General's Office and Comptroller General's office).

Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Felix Loarca Guzman said that the president had accepted the dialogue initiative proposed by the Bishops Conference but the only thing he can negotiate is for "the deputies to leave so the Congress can be cleansed."

De Leon Insists on Nonsuspension of People's Consultation

PA1111005793 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 10 Nov 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Excerpts] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio insisted on 10 November that the consultation with the people will not be suspended unless Congress and the Supreme Court are purged. De Leon made that statement in a communique he personally read following a ceremony at the National Palace to provide a money allocation to the National Land Fund.

[Begin recording] [De Leon] A consultation with the people is not going to be suspended unless the purging is achieved. Dialogue does not mean suspending the consultation with the people. For the president, at no time has dialogue meant that the consultation with the people will not be held, unless the reasons that prompted it no longer exist, namely, that we have succeeded in purging Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice.

Logically, if the motive, cause, or reason for the consultation with the people disappears, it stands to reason that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal would have to suspend it. Out of the respect I owe the people of Guatemala I deem it important to report truthfully about the activities that have been held regarding the consultation with the people. As president, statesman, and acting within a broad spirit of democracy, I have kept a very flexible position, as befitting of a statesman, to allow a broad and frank dialogue among the different sides; basically, I have done this to avoid a polarization of society and to achieve positive results to bring an end to the political crisis, provided a true commitment exists to resolve it. [passage omitted]

The executive is continuing its work, as part of its responsibility, and you see this every day in the different areas to which it has to devote its attention; proof of that is the president's visits to different municipalities precisely within the framework of the government's policy of decentralization, as well as in the inauguration of projects, which fall in line with the commitments made in the 180-day plan. In addition, we are working to fight poverty, to maintain the principles of authority and honesty, and to end corruption. The executive cannot stop for problems of any kind, and he continues to implement the 180-day plan and gets ready to implement the projects contained in the government program for 1994 and 1995. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity says many things. This is one of the things it says, although it is groundless. Today, more than ever, I am convinced, as president and general commander of the Army, that it is made up of officers who are eminently professional and give an eminently professional nature and sense to the armed institution. The work, objectives, and functions of an army in a democratic system have been totally demonstrated. The events of the past years demonstrate it. Although in certain cases we have had problems of that nature, the response by the military institution—based on its professionalism and recognition and awareness of the functions an institution like the Guatemala Army must perform within a democratic system—totally preclude any attempt to break the constitutional order, chiefly at this time. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Court Ruling Suspends Referendum

PA1111235693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Constitutionality Court today temporarily suspended the referendum the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) has scheduled for 28 November to purge the Congress of the Republic.

The Constitutionality Court ruled that the TSE's decree calling for a referendum breaks constitutional order because it is the 116 congressional deputies who must decide whether they will submit their resignations without interference from another state branch. The decision upholds a previous decision by the court in which it ruled that only the Congress has the power to carry out a self-purge or to approve constitutional reforms that provide for a reduction in executive and legislative terms of office.

The Constitutionality Court repealed TSE Decree 2-93 in which the TSE called a referendum and authorized the

beginning of a campaign for the people to decide whether the congressmen should be retained or dismissed from their posts.

This is the deputies' last legal recourse in their attempts to halt the referendum proposed by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio on 27 September. Considering that this ruling is temporary, the Constitutionality Court agreed that within the next 15 days it would hold hearings with representatives of the Attorney General's Office, Congress, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Executive Branch in an effort to come up with a final ruling.

De Leon on Referendun Suspension

PA1211054493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0355 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Statement by Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, after learning of the Constitutionality Court's decision to suspend the 28 November referendum, at the Guatemala City Hotel in Guatemala City on 11 November; from the "Telepress" newscast—recorded]

[Text] To suspend a referendum at this time, brandishing arguments that are basically formal, does not achieve the objectives of [20-second break in reception] leaders of the Republic. What is cause for concern is that the decision fails to respond to the will of a people who, even though they are patient and tolerant, are tired of the political system that has led us to the current situation.

I hope that the Constitutionality Court, with its provisional ruling— which, without a doubt, I will obey, but with which I do not agree and fail to understand—is fully aware that history is relentless and that the people are even more relentless when someone makes a mockery of their natural and legitimate rights, and, above all else, when someone misuses their institutions.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to—in my role as president of the Republic and representative of national unity, and I say this with full sincerity and as the statesman I consider myself to be—with all the [word indistinct] and in making an overall analysis of the situation we are experiencing, I am determined to continue working because, as we have said, I do not rest.

This ruling is just one more ruling. The political situation and the crisis—as it could be called from the foreign policy viewpoint—represents more than just one problem. Nevertheless, we will continue to execute our program and our decisive work regardless of the crisis in the educational structure and the crisis in the Supreme Court of Justice.

This is why, while in my current position and with my current attributes, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to make a patriotic, sincere, and firm appeal to Guatemalans to not despair and to refuse to believe that everything is lost. Fellow citizens: This is precisely how we should not act. This is simply one obstacle [words indistinct] and we can expect to push it aside [words indistinct]. The worst thing that could happen now [words indistinct]. That would be to play into the hands of those who want to resort to legal maneuverings to keep themselves in posts to which they were elected and who because of their [word indistinct] did not know how to respond to the Guatemalan people.

At this time, the actions of the president of the Republic will have to continue in a very special manner and be [words indistinct]. Guatemala, sincerely, does not merit [words indistinct] what is being done to it. Guatemalans understand this. I believe, however, that it should also be understood by the magistrates of the Constitutional Court, whom, with due respect, but also with great firmness, I also urge to think about their country and, especially, to allow the system to operate with complete honesty. Democracy cannot operate in poverty, but neither can it operate under a system that clings to the dead letter of the law, which can turn into a virtual straight jacket that ties up the feasibility of the system. At this time, this feasibility depends on your attitude, Mssrs. Constitutionality Court magistrates, and on the interpretation [words indistinct; applause].

I want to end my statement by telling the distinguished people here, as well as all of the Guatemalan people who are listening and watching me, that as the president of the Republic and as president of all Guatemalans, that just as I entered into the difficult but satisfactory struggle against corruption, I will place myself, as of this moment, regardless of my daily and regular tasks as president—and, as a matter of fact, tomorrow I will continue with my presidential working tour—before all Guatemalans [words indistinct] who merit all my respect and [words indistinct] because they are the only ones [words indistinct] await that the Guatemalans are the ones to decide what it is that has to be done and [words indistinct] magistrates uphold their duty. [applause, shouting] [words indistinct] in the sense of making the Constitutional Court magistrates responsible before history and the people of Guatemala for whatever happens. The people are sovereign and will be the ones to decide what is to be done and not [words indistinct; applause]. Meanwhile, we have work to do, the government has to [words indistinct] based on the principles promised [words indistinct] authority, honesty [words indistinct] the struggle against corruption—corruption which I hope our children will not know in the future. Thank you. [applause]

Mediator Comments on Decision

PA1211042093 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Nov 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] The Constitutionality Court on 11 November decided to suspend the referendum scheduled for 28 November. The court officially announced its decision while a third meeting between delegates from Congress

and the executive branch was taking place at the offices of the Bishops Conference on the subject of reforms to the Constitution.

Bishops Conference President Monsignor Gerardo Flores was interviewed during a recess in the meeting. We asked him his opinion about the suspension of the referendum and the impact it could have on the dialogue deputies and government representatatives have been holding since last Tuesday.

[Begin recording] [Flores] Honestly, I cannot express my opinion yet, because we have just only heard the news. Furthermore, I am not the one who should say whether this is right or wrong. I believe state branches should act in accordance with the law, and, therefore, I imagine we will all accept the decision as being valid.

The Executive Branch may still be able to contest the action, but I am not supposed to give a positive or negative opinion about this decision made by the Constitutionality Court. On the contrary, my position must be one of acceptance. The decision was made by a government institution that is worthy of respect and which has shown great independence and total respect for the laws. Therefore, I believe we must accept its decision.

[Unidentified reporter] This will virtually resuscitate Congress in the talks currently taking place. Could this affect negotiations?

[Flores] I have not seen any change of attitude in the deputies during the talks, which have continued with complete freedom, serenity, and peace. We have continued discussing various points of views on the articles that could be modified. I do not believe this will affect anything. On the contrary, the situation is less tense, and we can work more freely now. [end recording]

Roundup of Economic Developments 9 Nov

PA1011165393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Guatemalan economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Official sources reported on 2 November that Guatemala's October inflation was 0.58 percent. The accumulated inflation rate for the year, at the end of October, is 8.87 percent, lower than the 1992 rate for the same period. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2051 GMT 2 Nov 93)

The president of the Central Bank of Guatemala, Willy Zapata, has announced that by the end of this week the price of the dollar will drop at least four cents as a result of the exchange policy measures adopted by the Central Bank. (Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 3 Nov 93 p 3)

The Inter-American Development Bank on 3 November signed a financial cooperation agreement for $620,000 with the Foundation for the Development of Socioeconomic Programs during a ceremony in the headquarters of the international organization. (Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 4 Nov 93 p 5)

The Energy and Mines Ministry reported on 8 November that Guatemala's oil production grew 25 percent during the first half of 1993 due to increased exploitation in the Campo Xan region. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2335 GMT 8 Nov 93)

Honduras

Roundup of Economic Developments 9 Nov

PA1011164893

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Honduran economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

The director of the Central Bank of Honduras decided yesterday not to reduce the bank's cash reserves because in his opinion this would create more inflation and possibly cause a devaluation of the lempira. The economy minister had hinted on 3 November that cash reserves would be lowered to 34 percent. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Nov 93 p 2)

The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] representative in Honduras has said that whoever becomes president of Honduras will have to respect commitments made by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas. The IDB is pleased with Callejas' efforts to ensure that foreign debt payments are made on schedule. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Nov 93 p 11)

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has reported that banks have no liquid assets on hand because they lent too much money at the beginning of the year. He said that the government is responsible for keeping inflation to a minimum. (Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 8 Nov 93 p 61)

Nicaragua

Nicaragua's Chamorro Threatens To Step Down If Reforms Fail

PA1211034293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2154 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] Vienna, 11 Nov (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro threatened today to step down if the people do not accept her efforts to make some minor changes in the Constitution. These reforms are currently being debated by the National Opposition Union (UNO) and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

In statements to EFE from Vienna, Chamorro said: "I am willing that certain changes be made to the Constitution through a dialogue with all the political parties, the Catholic Church, and everyone. Nevertheless, the day Nicaraguans refuse to make these small changes in the Constitution—a constitution that I inherited—Violeta will go home, and they will have to work it out among themselves."

Chamorro, who arrived in Austria Wednesday on an official visit that will be followed up with a visit to Spain, expressed her opposition to the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference's petition that a referendum be held for the people to decide whether they want partial changes to the Constitution or whether they prefer a constituent assembly to draw up a new constitution.

Among the 60 of the 202 articles UNO wants to change in the Constitution, which was ratified by the Sandinists in 1987, are those that cover procedures to enact laws, the nation's democratic institutionalization, and the elimination of all articles of a totalitarian content.

Meanwhile, the Sandinists want to limit broad executive powers and transfer them to the Legislative Assembly. By reducing the president's powers, the executive would be forced to consult with the political forces before signing agreements with international financial institutions.

Concerning the crisis that arose within the FSLN last week because of internal differences on a draft bill to rule on privatizations, Chamorro indicated that this political tool is "the solution to a problem of the past that I received as a legacy from the previous Sandinist government."

Chamorro said: "I ask all Nicaraguans to engage in a dialogue to reach an understanding. I know it is hard, but it can be done. I am optimistic on the future of my country, one of the world's poorest. I am maintaining the enormous faith that God has granted me."

The president of Nicaragua, whose administration marked three years in January, said she was "trying to leave the enormous foreign debt I inherited in better shape than when I received it."

The president added: "Before I was elected president, my slogan was reconciliation among all Nicaraguans, and I am not going back on this. Rather, I will insist and ask all sides to seek reconciliation to live in peace in a nation that four years ago featured 3 million residents, and now we are at 4 million because many have returned" from exile.

When discussing the $40 million in aid the United States had allocated to Nicaragua, Chamorro indicated that the funds had not arrived because "there were Nicaraguans who had misinformed the U.S. Government." Nevertheless, she assured, "The infant Jesus and the Virgin of Guadalupe will give us this great miracle in order that all the citizens can receive this money for the plans we have made." These plans include the modernization of small businesses and farms and the cleaning up of the coffee plantations.

Meanwhile, in an interview published in Friday's edition of "DER STRANDARD," an Austrian daily, Chamorro expressed her hope that this aid will be received by year's end, because it would be "a nice gift from Santa." She also indicated her firm belief that Nicaragua will develop in terms of freedom for its citizens.

Meanwhile, Erwin Kruger, Nicaraguan foreign cooperation minister, today reported that Nicaragua, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had signed in Vienna a cooperation and technical assistance agreement. An IAEA team will help Nicaragua in the extraction of cobalt while UNIDO will help in industrial restructuring.

After meeting with IAEA Director Hans Blix and UNIDO Director Mauricio de Maria y Campo, Chamorro met with Italian Giorgio Giacomelli, UN general director in Vienna and executive director of the international program for the control of drugs, with whom she discussed measures to combat drug trafficking.

"I am very happy because agreements have been signed. These agreements are not for Violeta, they are for the Nicaraguans. I have seen doors open," Chamorro indicated.

In discussing her Austrian visit, Chamorro said: "I was received very warmly, and I am certain that in Spain it will be the same. I am very thankful to the Spanish Government for all the support it has given to the Nicaraguan people. Although I cannot demand help from any nation to assist my people, maybe they, because we are brothers, will help us with something I will be asking for," Chamorro said without giving any more details.

The trip to Spain on 15 November is in search of political support and to maintain economic aid that in the past three years totaled more than $100 million. Chamorro will meet with King Juan Carlos I, Queen Sofia, Felipe Gonzalez, president of the Spanish Government, and with political and business personalities.

Sandinist People's Army Sends Troops to San Jose del Bocay

PA1011233393 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Nov 93

[From the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] We have a last minute report. The Sandinist People's Army has sent heavily armed troops to San Jose del Bocay, which rebel forces have occupied. The north is in a state of great tension once again.

Troops To Evict 'Contras'

PA1011163493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1533 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Managua, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Army deployed troops today, Wednesday, to the northern town of San Jose de Bocay on the Honduran border to evict a group of "recontras" (former rearmed "contras") that has occupied the town since Sunday [7 November].

A military spokesperson said the occupation took place without resistance on the part of the six policemen "because they were overpowered by the large number of attackers." "We have no knowledge of fighting or casualties," the military spokespersons added, noting that "the recontras are able to occupy small towns" in the country's most remote regions due to the absence of soldiers and policemen.

He confirmed, nonetheless, that troops "have been deployed" to that region to evict the rearmed group led by "Musun," who did not accept the amnesty offered by Violeta Chamorro's government to secure peace in the country. He also reported that on 8 November another "recontra" group led by "Charro" attacked a farming cooperative, located 20 km southeast of the "Siuna" mining center in the North Atlantic autonomous region.

Armed actions by rebel groups in the northern and central part of Nicaragua have diminished in the past weeks, because the Army sent troops to those regions to provide security for coffee and basic grain harvests.

Police Deny Reports of Former Soldiers Seizing Esteli

PA1111010293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2358 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Managua, 10 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The National Police today denied that former Sandinist soldiers had taken over the northern city of Esteli, located 149 km from Managua, to demand that the government keep the social pledges it made regarding their return to civilian life. Nicaraguan news media stated today former members of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) had "taken over" Esteli once again.

Esteli Police Chief Commander Luis Enrique Rodriguez told ACAN-EFE "approximately 80 people, discharged soldiers and disbanded 'recontras,' unsuccessfully tried this morning to block the road to the city."

According to the police chief, the former servicemen and "contras" are staying close to the edge of the road to Esteli and are "peacefully holding rallies" to demand the government keep the agreements signed for their reincorporation into civilian life. [passage omitted]

Reports Say Recontras Active in Northern, Central Region

PA1211022993 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Nov 93

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Military authorities have reported intense activity by rearmed groups, presumably recontras, in the northern and central regions of the country. In the Las Sabanas sector of Somoto, Madriz, the internal security forces reported the activities of as yet unidentified armed groups. In La Rica, San Jose de Bocay, Jinotega, and El Diablo Hill in the same area, a group of 20 recontras led by Octaviano blocked the road between that town and Jinotega. Also, it was learned that an armed group of the 3-80 Northern Front paralyzed transportation in Rio Blanco, Matagalpa.

Minister Denies Government Opposes Constitutional Reforms

PA1111024293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Nov 93

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal Sanchez has rejected UNO [National Opposition Union] statements charging that the government is torpedoing the dialogue with UNO. Foreign Minister Leal, who is a member of the government dialogue commission, said [Social Democratic Party] Deputy Adolfo Jarquin's statements were unfortunate. Jarquin had said that the government opposed the constitutional reforms.

[Begin recording] [Leal] We presented several proposals yesterday on issues related to the Armed Forces, the property problem, and the electoral system. In the end, proposals for agreements on issues pertaining to the Executive and Legislative Branches also were advanced. We believe progress will continue to be made in our negotiations with UNO to determine whether we can reach an agreement. Obviously, we agree on some issues and disagree on others. We have differences, but I believe we can make progress on some topics and continue to discuss others.

[Unidentified reporter] Deputy Adolfo Jarquin, who apparently attended the last meeting with the government, has stated that the government opposes the constitutional reforms proposed by UNO—reforms that are to be discussed with the Sandinist Front. What do you have to say about this?

[Leal] I regret Deputy Jarquin's unfortunate declarations very much, if indeed he did say this. I regret the alleged statements by Deputy Jarquin and consider them to be unfortunate and totally false, because we have never stated this. An UNO member asked if we were interested in the constitutional reforms, and I was the one who answered the question. I specifically stated that we were very interested in the constitutional reforms and wanted

to make comprehensive reforms to ensure our institutionalization of democracy and to consolidate the democratic process in the country.

We have never said we are not interested in constitutional reforms or anything along those lines. Our position is just the opposite. We offered to join the talks they will hold with the Sandinist Front on constitutional reforms. The government is definitely interested in participating in these debates. Because of differences, however, we did not reach an agreement, and UNO did not accept our participation. UNO set prior conditions that we did not accept.

Deputy Jarquin's alleged statements are simply not true. The government—and I said this myself—has great interest in proceeding to make thorough constitutional reforms to ensure Nicaragua's democratic institutionalization.

[Reporter] Dr. Wilfredo Navarro, president of the Independent Liberal party, also said today, after a meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, that the government was torpedoing the dialogue process. What are your comments on these statements?

[Leal] I do not share Dr. Wilfredo Navarro's opinion that the government is torpedoing the dialogue. As I stated, we presented four proposals yesterday, and UNO presented counterproposals on Executive and Legislative Branch issues. The thing is that the dialogue has to reach a negotiated agreement. It cannot be used to impose an agreement. Both sides must be aware of this: impositions will not lead to positive results. There can be no winners or losers. We must all win. The negotiations must yield benefits for all Nicaraguans.

As we have repeatedly stated, the government is determined and willing to reach a national agreement, because it is convinced that this is what Nicaragua needs. The country needs an agreement between UNO, the Sandinist Front, and the government. We need a national agreement that includes necessary constitutional reforms to consolidate the democratic process. We need an agreement that includes an economic program, agreed on by all sectors, to enable us to successfully implement it in the country. We need an agreement that will make Nicaragua and its democratic system feasible. Honestly, the Nicaraguans should have reached a national agreement by now, and I believe this is an opportune time to do so. [end recording]

UNO, Government Reach Preliminary Agreements

PA1111123693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Nov 93

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Wilfredo Navarro Moreira, president of the Independent Liberal Party and member of the UNO [National Opposition Union] coalition, has announced that the negotiating commissions of UNO and the Executive Branch are ready to sign agreements.

[Begin recording] [Navarro] The talks with the government have had their ups and downs, advances and obstacles. There has been some discussion between government and UNO delegates, but the process has finally moved forward. Yesterday, at a meeting that concluded around 0030, several preliminary agreements were drafted, and we only need the president's endorsement for these preliminary agreements to be signed. These agreements include specifically Judicial Branch topics such as the appointment of judges, the comptroller general, and the electoral court magistrate. In addition, there is a general agreement on some land ownership criteria, and a very important agreement on how to determine the characteristics of the Armed Forces.

There are also agreements on the Executive Branch that already have been discussed and in which the government has already accepted the establishment of the Council of Ministers and the participation of the deputy ministers in this council. In these agreements, the government also has accepted that UNO be properly represented in the cabinet. Now what is left to do is for the government to determine how UNO will be represented in the cabinet.

[Unidentified reporter] What can you tell us regarding talks with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]?

[Navarro] The UNO commission has already been formed and Deputy Miriam Arguello has made contact with the FSLN. The talks with the Sandinist commission may begin on Thursday or Friday. However, we must clarify the fact that only constitutional reforms will be discussed because we are concluding talks with the government to subsequently begin a national dialogue. Hopefully, the agreements with the government will be signed so that we can move on to a second phase and a national dialogue. [end recording]

FSLN's Ramirez Pledges Return to Power Through Activism

PA1011155293 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Nov 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Oliver Bodan and Juan Carlos Sarmiento]

[Text] Matagalpa—Speaking yesterday during a political rally commemorating the 17th anniversary of FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] founder Carlos Fonseca Amador's death, Sandinist bloc leader Sergio Ramirez Mercado said that the Sandinist Front would return to power "not by dividing but by multiplying."

The rally began with an enormous march at the Heroes and Martyrs Monument that ended at the birthplace of the national hero. It was presided over by Ramirez Mercado, who is also a member of the FSLN National

Directorate; Matagalpa FSLN Political Secretary Carlos Fonseca Teran; and FSLN municipal and departmental leaders.

Ramirez insisted that only by returning to power would the Sandinists be able to implement a political, economic, and social program that "would transform this society" because there is a "political will" to solve Nicaragua's problems.

Referring to the privatization issue, Ramirez said the current government had started this process as soon as it assumed power and that ever since then, the FSLN had insisted on the need to ensure that workers be allowed to participate in privatized firms. He insisted that it is not logical and quite senseless to talk about privatizing education and health in Nicaragua—a country that is so poor and wretched. "The Sandinists cannot accept this because this is the government's duty. If this is not the case...what the hell do we need government for, the former vice president of the Republic asked angrily.

The transfer of those resources to workers has to be legalized, Ramirez stated, adding: "We need protective laws for this new type of property that has emerged in Nicaragua." For this reason, the FSLN leader said, the Sandinist bloc had drafted the Law on Privatization of Public Services" as it will let "the people know what is being discussed." Had this law been in effect in 1990, the people would know what firms have been privatized, he asserted.

Defending Peasants and Members of Cooperatives

Regarding problems facing peasants and members of cooperatives in the country's rural sectors, Ramirez Mercado said that the fight to "maintain their land and prevent eviction of cooperatives" must continue. "We cannot hide under group banners when we have to fight for the land. We have a commitment to fight for the land and for the permanent security of all the people who live in the Nicaraguan mountains," he continued.

The FSLN leader also criticized banks that appropriate the property of peasants who cannot pay their debts and said "such situations should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis." He also denounced banks that give the appropriated land to large landowners.

At the political rally, Carlos Fonseca Teran also made reference to the privatization of public services and workers' property. He said that "only with the people's struggle will the defense of the revolution be ensured. Regardless of who this hurts, the Sandinists will always lead the people's struggles."

FSLN Department Secretary Jose Gonzalez accused the OOT [Office for Territorial Organization] of refusing to legalize the ownership of houses of Sandinist councilmen and Community Movement members in Matagalpa. "We cannot permit that they return this confiscated properties to the Somozists," he asserted.

Daniel Ortega Speaks at Bluefields Election Rally

PA1011154293 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Nov 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Freddy Potoy and Dorothy Whitaker]

[Text] Bluefields—Commander Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], speaking during a meeting in Bluefields with FSLN candidates for the Regional Autonomous Council of the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region [RAAS], categorically and forcefully condemned threats against certain Sandinist deputies.

"These threats are not a democratic way of debating ideas. I publicly ask the Government Ministry to have the National Police investigate these threats so the incidents can be cleared up," Ortega said.

Ortega called on the Sandinists to strengthen intraparty debate and discussions, adding: "We are moving forward in the democratic field with the Atlantic Coast elections. The Sandinists have heeded this form of people's participation."

The FSLN secretary general agreed with FSLN candidates for the Regional Autonomous Council in asking the National Assembly to reform the Autonomous Law of the Atlantic Coast and in asking the government to fulfill their historic demands in health, education, employment, and electricity.

Election fireworks started at the RAAS with the presentation of the 45 FSLN candidates during a public assembly held in Bluefields and with the registration of various political parties, including those that make up the National Opposition Union.

Parties participating in the elections are: FSLN, Nicaraguan Resistance Party, Conservative Popular Alliance, Social Democratic Party, and the Independent Liberal Party—the last four being members of the UNO—and the Liberal Constitutionalist Party.

The Authentic Autonomous Coastal Movement [Movimiento Autentico Autonomo] (MAAC), the Democratic Coastal Alliance [Alianza Democratica Costena], the Yatama group [an Indian military organization], Let Us Save the Atlantic Coast [Salvemos la Costa Atlantica], and the Democratic Action Movement [Movimiento de Accion Democratica] are the movements and associations with which the people have registered.

In a tour yesterday of the towns of Orinoco, Laguna de Perlas, Kukra Hill, El Bluff, and the city of Bluefields, the Sandinist candidates and the population said the FSLN can help them solve their problems with health, education, unemployment, lack of electricity, and protection of their renewable and nonrenewable natural resources in the area.

Most of the FSLN candidates are young people, local leaders, who do not necessarily belong to that party. Eight of the 45 candidates are women.

Commander Ortega, when referring to recently formed Coastal Democratic Alliance [Alianza Democratica Costena] (Adeco) headed by Alvin Guthrie said it is a party formed by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and that "the only explanation that can be given on this is the business being conducted with area fishing companies."

Fundamental Duty

The Sandinist leader said some of the experiences noted during the election process in the Atlantic Coast will be picked up to elect the FSLN candidates who will participate in the 1996 elections.

The fundamental duty and struggle of the FSLN in the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast is winning the upcoming elections at the Regional Autonomous Councils scheduled for February 1994, Ortega said in meeting with more than 300 FSLN members, who participated in an assembly at the Cultural Center in that city yesterday morning.

Reports on each district and the election of their respective candidates clearly show the serious and responsible manner in which the FSLN is working, the political leader said.

He pointed out that the election campaign must not be conducted by offering money or gifts but by touching the consciences of the population.

The FSLN must establish open communications with the population and must go door to door to ask the president to reform the Autonomous Law of the Atlantic Coast, Ortega insisted.

The important thing is for the residents of Bluefields and other communities to agree to work in support of the candidates to achieve their objectives.

Ortega said the Sandinists are full of enthusiasm with their elections and those from the Pacific must support them: "No political force has shown a capacity to work, willingness, and commitment like the FSLN has," he said.

Roundup of Economic Developments 9 Nov

PA1011165193

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Nicaraguan economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

During an assembly of its governors in Guatemala, the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, BCIE, approved special treatment for Nicaragua on finance, debt, and investment issues. The resolution, designed to reactivate the economy, agreed to grant loans of up to $140 million. In the financial field a revolving credit of up to $10 million through commercial banks was approved, $22-million more for bank projects, and a further $80 million in resources from suppliers or tied to specific items. (Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Nov 93 p 5)

Finance Minister on New Exchange Rates

PA1011143493 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Beginning 10 November, the sliding rate for the exchange rate will be 1 percent per month. The finance minister announced this today and also announced the disbursement of $25 million by the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB].

During a meeting with the members of the American Chamber of Commerce, Finance Minister Emilio Pereira explained the 1994 budget and the economic perspectives. U.S. Ambassador John Maisto was present at the meeting.

Pereira announced that as of 10 November, the sliding exchange rate will be 1 percent per month, and not 0.5 percent as had been the case until now, in order to benefit exporters and small producers.

[Begin Pereira recording] This year, between January and November, we had 11 months with the 0.5 percent per month [sliding exchange rate]. This means that in November and December we will have [a sliding rate of] 1 percent in December and two weeks of November with 1 percent.

Thus, since [the exchange rate] is estimated to be 6.30 [cordobas per dollar], it should be approximately between 6.36 and 6.40 [cordobas per dollar] to close the year. [end recording]

He also announced that the IDB will disburse $25 million today and that the Government of Taiwan will disburse $30 million next week.

Within the tax plan for 1994, he stressed the need for a concerted effort on taxes.

[Begin Pereira recording] We want to reach an agreement among all groups, particularly among the workers, the businessmen, and the government for [words indistinct] stability for the next four years that will allow investment. This tax measure will seek to lower indirect taxes. [end recording]

He emphasized the need for attaining a stabilization plan for the next four years that would facilitate investments. He estimates a 2.5-percent rate of increase for 1994, while inflation will be at 10 percent.

Panama

Minister Wants U.S. Ambassador To Explain DEA Activities

PA1211035893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0209 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Panama City, 11 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino reported today, Thursday, that he has called on U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton to meet with him next Tuesday to discuss the legal scope of the DEA's actions in Panama in fighting international drug-trafficking activities.

In statements to the press, Mulino said this issue "evidently worries me," and, in turn, he called Hinton, because the Foreign Ministry is not getting "direct" information on the logistics of the joint cooperation between Panamanian authorities and the DEA for drug operations.

He added that cooperation mechanisms approved by Panama have to be implemented, not only by the United States, but by agencies from all other countries. Mulino pointed out, however, that these mechanisms cannot be implemented outside the country's legal parameters or without the knowledge of Panamanian authorities.

"I am not too pleased with the fact that foreign authorities are conducting actions (by themselves) which should be conducted by this country," Mulino asserted. He explained that the Panamanian Foreign Ministry does not have "direct" knowledge of the scope of the cooperation between Panama's Technical Judicial Police and the DEA, because such operations are handled "with a great deal of security and caution" in light of their delicate and confidential nature. Mulino observed, however, that "precisely" those cooperation mechanisms that allow for such operations "must not arbitrarily violate" Panamanian juridical order. "I cannot agree with this," Mulino emphasized, although he did not refer to any specific cases. [passage omitted]

Roundup of Economic Developments 9 Nov

PA1011164993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Panamanian economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

The government received $1,111,300,000 in income through September 1993. Out of that total, $1.045 billion was from current income. $62.7 million was collected in bank and cash balances. $66 million was collected as capital income for ordinary disbursements, out of which $27.8 million was from USAID and the Private Sector Economic Reactivation Program. These funds were used to repay nonmilitary bilateral debts. The remaining $38 million was received from international organizations like the World Bank and the IDB, donations from foreign governments, recovered loans, and the sale of assets. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Nov 93)

Argentina

Minister Notes Limitation of Support for Blockade of Haiti

PY1011235593 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Nov 93 Section 1 p 6

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Oscar Camilion confirmed Argentina's support for the naval blockade imposed by the Security Council on Haiti, but emphasized that Argentina does not contemplate the possibility of carrying out military operations in that Caribbean nation.

We have decided to respond to the Security Council's petition concerning Haiti by sending one ship, but we also want to establish the limits of our participation, the defense minister said.

Camilion is now in New York, where he will meet Dante Caputo, a former Argentine foreign minister and the current UN secretary general's representative to Haiti.

Camilion also is scheduled to visit UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali tomorrow to discuss financial issues and the prospects for the UN peacekeeping operations. Argentina is participating in 10 of these operations with 1,500 men.

Diplomatic sources indicated that the Argentine minister will discuss with Ghali the $12 million financial compensation the United Nations owes Argentina for its participation in the peacekeeping forces.

Camilion believes the current situation in Haiti is difficult and requires much diplomacy and patience. Discussing the noncompliance with the Isla de la Gobernadores agreements on the return of overthrown Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 October, the defense minister said one should not be discouraged by a failure and especially by a deadline.

Camilion also praised the mediation by Caputo, who, according to the minister, has demonstrated that he is a patient and tenacious man. In the defense minister's opinion, Caputo still needs these qualities. [passage omitted]

Sweden To Send Experts To Train UN Peacekeeping Forces

PY1111021893 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 10 Nov 93 p 17

[Text] In keeping with an agreement reached yesterday in Stockholm between Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and the Swedish Government, Sweden will send to Argentina a group of experts in training UN peacekeeping forces.

After concluding a two-day visit to Stockholm and a tour that also included the United Kingdom and Finland, Di Tella reported that the Swedish experts will advise the Argentine Government on the way to establish a center of this type. Sweden has had a "blue helmets" training center in its territory for many years.

Di Tella told journalists in the Swedish capital: "We want to duplicate a center of this type in Argentina." The Argentine Government's idea is to build a center in our national territory to train "blue helmets" from all of Latin America, a center that will be financed by the United Nations.

Di Tella emphasized that, at this moment, Argentina has more than 1,000 men throughout the world in various UN peacekeeping operations. Argentina's most significant presence is in Croatia. Other small contingents are in Cyprus, Kuwait, Mozambique, Namibia, and Angola.

The foreign minister also announced that negotiations to sign an agreement on investment guarantees and another agreement to prevent double taxation with Sweden would continue.

Di Tella is scheduled to return to Buenos Aires this morning after visiting the aforementioned countries and the Aland Islands—inhabited by Swedish people, but under Finnish sovereignty—that he intends to use as a model for the Malvinas Islands. This visit is part of a strategy to "entice" the Malvinas islanders that the foreign minister has been implementing for two years, without achieving the reestablishment of their ties to the continent yet.

Government Confirms Meeting Held Between Menem, Alfonsin

PY1011184593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Nov (NA)—Presidential Secretary General Eduardo Bauza admitted today that President Carlos Menem and former President Raul Alfonsin held a meeting on 4 November. He clarified, however, that the two political leaders will continue with their respective positions on the constitutional reform, especially regarding the creation of a minister coordinator.

Meanwhile, government sources did not discard the possibility that a new meeting might be held between the two leaders, presumably after the Radical Civic Union [UCR] elects a new leadership on 12 November.

In a brief news conference given in his government office, Bauza said he believes the "gentlemen's agreement" [not to disclose the meeting] reached after the meeting, which was held in the house of former Foreign Minister Dante Caputo in the Vicente Lopez district, had expired.

He therefore admitted that the meeting had been attended, in addition to President Menem and former President Raul Alfonsin, by Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde, Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, and union leader Luis Barrionuevo.

The UCR was represented by party President Mario Losada and former Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia.

Bauza praised Menem's gesture in holding the meeting in the house of a "radical leader," indicating that it was a working meeting in which the only agreement reached was that "the experts of the two parties will continue to work closely" to search for a plan that would satisfy the interests of the two parties.

Bauza said that "Alfonsin continues in his position, and Menem also with his own theory" regarding the figure of a minister coordinator, which is an issue that will be studied in detail by the experts to bring closer together the positions of the two leaders.

"The figure is not well defined, not even its role. If the minister coordinator is created, he should be appointed by the president and ratified by Congress with a special majority vote," said Bauza, defending the known government position regarding the change in the government system.

Asked about the reasons for holding the meeting before the UCR convention on 12 November, Bauza explained that the meeting was held because "dialogue and consensus prevailed over personal interests."

Bauza also praised the UCR leadership for their predisposition for dialogue, as well as the gesture shown by President Menem on 3 October when he said "victory does not grant rights."

Regarding the government evaluation of the main opposition party after the meeting, Bauza said that the UCR "has vindicated its position for reform, while the Justicialist Party consolidated its will for dialogue without arrogance."

In this regard he noted "the desire for understanding instead of fighting."

These comments were made during a brief seven minutes, which concluded when Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella appeared from behind a screen to visit this important government office.

Alfonsin Hopeful Over Agreement

PY1111150793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0033 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Nov (NA)—Former President Raul Alfonsin today voiced his confidence that "an agreement" will be reached with the government on the constitutional reform, and that "the two parties will grant guarantees." He also voiced his support for "a democratic pact that will help pull Argentina out of the difficult situation it is experiencing," and said that negotiations will continue only if the government gives up its idea of a plebiscite, because "if not, there will be no more dialogue."

This afternoon Alfonsin held a news conference during which he said that his meeting with President Carlos Menem had been "behind closed doors, and not secret," because "each of us needed to explain our position," and justified the search for a consensus on the subject by stating that "if we had continued on the same path the country would have gone to ruin."

In referring to the constitutional reform bill drafted by the Justicialist Party when he was in government, Alfonsin said: "It was worth going to the meeting to see how much of what was approved by the Democratic Consolidation Council [Consejo para la Consolidacion de la Democracia] we shared, and what conclusions we could reach now."

He added that criticism of his meeting with Menem came only from "one group of fellow partisans, because the great majority agrees," saying also that it is "nonsense to say that (Mario) Losada went to the meeting with the wrong idea, because he knew what it was all about, and was convinced that it was the right thing to do."

The radical leader commented sarcastically: "Many people meet with other people. Or are we all idiots in this country?" He also said that he had "stated long before that this new possibility had emerged which must change the essence of the dialogue."

Alfonsin added that "being the only candidate to head the party, all that could be done was to adopt elementary and preliminary measures," and challenged "anyone to say in what other way something like this could have been done."

The former president admitted that "anyone could be annoyed over having to learn about this through the media, as was the case, unfortunately" and added that "radicalism wanted a dialogue a long time ago, but the necessary conditions for this did not exist because the UCR was used as a scapegoat for all the problems that existed."

He added that among the points under discussion in the new reform bill are the Magistrates Council and the Constitutional Court, and estimated that "many of the points to be analyzed are tied to what are regarded as legal guarantees."

Alfonsin added that "there will also be something similar to a prime minister. I know the president does not like that name, but I do not care what we call it." He added that "we should try to limit presidential power and give Congress a more significant role to play."

The former president, who is the candidate with the best chances in the UCR elections, commented that "the path we were treading was leading the country to ruin," and said that "if the two-thirds majority is not achieved, we will be unable to elect them as members of the Constituent Assembly."

Alfonsin said: "I say this reasserting that I will not be a candidate for anything. I am not interested in any

candidacy, I do not want to be a candidate for president," and then noted that his objective is to "hold a dialogue with all forces as a man who wants to contribute to the democratic reconstruction."

Alfonsin said categorically that "if there is a plebiscite there will be no more negotiations" on the reform, and admitted that he "would have preferred to act in another way, more openly, but this would demand a great sacrifice."

Menem: Don't Call Alfonsin 'Traitor'

PY1111181293 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] This morning President Carlos Menem publicly defended UCR leader Raul Alfonsin. The president urged UCR members not to brand Alfonsin a traitor, or to accuse him of having sold out or gone over to Menem's side.

The president stated that as long as no agreement on constitutional reform is reached with the opposition, the plebiscite scheduled for 21 November is on.

The president was also asked about Alfonsin's remarks that he would be willing to accept only one-time presidential reelection. Menem answered:

[Begin recording] Well, I believe that this is worth taking into consideration. In the final analysis, however, we must first see the text of the final draft of the constitutional amendment that the members of the Constituent Assembly will have to work with. I accept Alfonsin's position on this issue, no problem. I want to make it clear, however, that it remains to be seen how this will turn out. [end recording]

The president also confirmed that Argentines want a constitutional reform, and this will become clear in the 21 November plebiscite.

Army Chief Balza Addresses Conference of Americas' Armies

PY1011122793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2203 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Nov (NA)—During a speech delivered to Army representatives attending the 20th Conference of the Americas' Armies, which is currently being held in Brasilia, Lieutenant General Martin Balza, Army chief of staff, stated that the present time constitutes "a historic opportunity to create an atmosphere of regional security" among the different countries of the hemisphere.

According to what was made public by the Army General Staff in Buenos Aires, in the course of his address Lt. Gen. Balza pointed out that this common atmosphere within the hemisphere should be based on "trust, mutual knowledge, and coincidence in the defense of common interests."

He further stated that "the consolidation of democratic systems and respect for human rights," the "preservation of regional peace and security without resorting to the use of force as a method to settle political controversies," and "the control of drug production and trafficking, and of the threat of narcoterrorism," can be cited among the common interests shared by all the countries in the continent.

Balza highlighted that the foregoing coincidences included "the search for the economic integration that our peoples and governments strive after; the economic, social, and cultural development of our peoples; and the preservation of the environment in light of the threats that may jeopardize the future of the region."

To that effect, Balza asserted that the most sensible course of action was "to act together, convinced that the political-economic and security blocs that have been established on the basis of the nation-state will be the basic subjects of public international law in the medium and long term."

He added that "we are at present in a position to outline regional cooperation measures that could become the first steps on the path to a broader understanding, as they would encourage coming to grips with issues pertaining to the defense of common interests, while eliminating or minimizing the possibility of regional conflicts. They would moreover be a step forward toward achieving more complex levels of cooperation."

Deputies Complete Ratification of Nonproliferation Treaty

PY1111012793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2139 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Nov (NA)—In a divided vote, the Chamber of Deputies today ratified the nonproliferation Tlatelolco Treaty that limits the spread of nuclear weapons. Argentina will thus have access to industrial countries' state-of-the-art technology.

Heedful of U.S. suggestions, national authorities had insisted that Congress ratify the treaty. The United States had been striving for Argentina's approval of the international treaty.

In the afternoon session, the vote was divided, but the support of the leading opposition bloc was decisive for ratifying the treaty.

The treaty had not been put to the vote in the two previous sessions for lack of a quorum. This was mainly put down to a move by the Radical Civic Union to delay ratification. The root cause underpinning opposition to the treaty was pressure from the United States.

The treaty was ratified by the Senate on 28 April and had lingered in the Chamber of Deputies since then without much success since the opposition was against it on the grounds that it did not conform to the new international situation.

But in light of the fact that it was unable to introduce amendments and lacked foundation for straightforwardly rejecting it, the opposition went to Congress this afternoon, willy-nilly, to endorse Congress' ratification of the treaty.

The Chamber of Deputies also passed 18 bills without observations or dissent, granted several requests for the order of the day for the next sitting, and since there were no more issues meriting consideration, adjourned until next week.

Bolivia

President Notes Lack of Press Freedom During Potosi Visit

PY1111235693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who is in Potosi, by reporter Mario Espinoza, who is in television studio in La Paz—live]

[Excerpt] [Espinoza] Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I am grateful to President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada for this honor. We are in direct communication with Potosi. How are you, Mr. President?

[Sanchez] Fine, thank you. I am pleased to greet you and to talk with you.

[Espinoza] How are things going? There are contradictory reports from Potosi despite the fact that the social communications minister said that the reports that stones were thrown at the presidential delegation are completely false.

[Sanchez] Yes they are. We were given a very cordial welcome. The people of Potosi are very hospitable. We—my wife, the foreign minister, the delegation—were well received. We went to a te deum. We then walked to the municipality where an honor session was held. This is where I was able to speak to the institutions of Potosi. What is happening here is that all the media have been closed. The Potosi Civic Committee and the Potosi reporters were able to establish a radio and television network to prevent people who disagree with them from being heard.

[Espinoza] Is this creating concern?

[Sanchez] This creates concern because it is the deprivation of a basic right. They created a network of the type made by Garcia Meza [former president Luis Garcia Meza]. It seems that the Garcia Meza style used by the civic committee is quite alive here in Potosi. I had a program for last night entitled Goni Answers Potosi but I was not allowed on the radio network. This morning a radio station did not allow me to use the station. Also, reporters refused to come to my news conference. This is an absolute violation of press freedom, of freedom of information. The reporters have been threatened and they are frightened. The people of Potosi cannot listen to the government officials, they cannot hear any opinion disagreeing with a small group which wants to make people go hungry, does not allow them to work, and has frightened everybody here in Potosi.

[Espinoza] Before telling you a couple of things, Mr. President, yesterday I heard some reports from Potosi that you were talking with the president of the Potosi Civic Committee, and that you told him: I am not going to negotiate under pressure. If that is happening, are you not going to negotiate under pressure?

[Sanchez] That is true. And not because I am Goni or Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, but because I have the investiture of a constitutional president of the Republic. I cannot negotiate under pressure, and I have started talking with different organizations. This morning I was working at Cordepo [Potosi Development Corporation] observing their development plans and the problems they are facing. I also met with members of the cooperatives who have not joined the strike. The cooperative leaders and I held an honor session, but obviously nothing has been released to the press because everything has been curtailed by the censorship existing here in Potosi. I am also going to talk with the university officials and with members of the municipal council. I am working in an effort to learn and solve some of the problems affecting Potosi, despite the absolute negative and destructive position of this civic committee.

[Espinoza] Now I want to tell you a couple of things, Mr. President. Just a few minutes ago I was at the Senate, and the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] bloc expressed its full support to the president of the republic, but it announced a plot by ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] and MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left].

[Sanchez] We can see that from here. The owners of the media here in Potosi are the MIR and ADN, and they are the ones behind this situation. We know very well that Mr. Salas [not further identified] was staging a plot in a discotheque. Plots are so common in Bolivia that they are now planned in nightclubs. But there is a group willing to seize command of the COB [Bolivian Labor Confederation]. Last night the civic committee wanted to lift the coercive measures to begin a new day of activities today, analyzing their problems. Then a Mr. Ramirez arrived. He is Edgar Ramirez, executive secretary of the Bolivian Mineworkers Federation, who managed to stop the lifting of coercive measures because there is a negative attitude here. We know this because it is not concealed. Landivar [not further identified] himself has proposed a reduction of the presidential term. Thus, it seems that they are trying to achieve through other means what they could not achieve through the ballot boxes. They are worried because they are going to be overwhelmingly defeated in the municipal elections. They want a crisis situation to improve their situation, and if possible, to destabilize the country, because people want to obtain through other means what they cannot

obtain through ballot boxes. And this does not surprise me. I can see here in Potosi that the work of the civic committee is absolutely controlled by ADN, MIR, and other Trotskyist elements who are always seeking a confrontation, a crisis, and violence, because they believe that in this manner they will reach their objectives. But there is no reason to worry, because although they are working, we are well aware of it and with patience and good humor we are going to place them where they belong. They will have no success. But this is not so important. What is serious here in Potosi is the manner in which freedom of the press is being curtailed or eliminated. [passage omitted]

'Anti-Democratic Conspiracy' Behind Disorder

PY1211123693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In La Paz, Ministry of Government Under Secretary Hugo San Martin this morning said three things: There is peace and tranquillity; the social disorder is illusory, and Generals Hugo Banzer and Garcia Meza are plotting. Reporter Amalia Pando will give us further details on this.

[Begin recording] [Pando] Thank you. President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada will return at 1700 this afternoon to La Paz from Potosi, as reported by Ministry of Government Under Secretary Hugo San Martin, who also referred to a hidden power. He said that behind the strikes, behind the stoppages and demonstrations, there is a hidden power. Who is behind that power, we asked, and this is what he said:

[San Martin] A few days ago the Senate president said that there was a hidden power behind the demonstrations staged by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], and that this hidden power probably stemmed from Gen. Banzer. And I would like to dig further and ask: Who is behind Gen. Banzer? It is very symptomatic that when the government shows a political willingness to find former dictator Garcia Meza, the social and political environment begins to shake. There are stoppages, strikes, and there is a hunger strike headed by one of the main collaborators in Garcia Meza's regime.

[Pando] According to San Martin, Garcia Meza and Banzer are plotting.

[San Martin] I think I am showing you the origin of this conspiracy. It is an anti-democratic conspiracy. And this is not something new that we are only just discovering now. The previous government has repeatedly said that a set of mechanisms of control, of security, and of intelligence are moving behind Gen. Garcia Meza. [passage omitted]

[Pando] San Martin also reported that the three high school students who were arrested yesterday were set free with their parents' commitment that they will no longer break the windshields of vehicles.

And finally, San Martin also said that the social crisis is but illusory. He said that peace and tranquillity prevail in the country. This opinion is based on the polls conducted by the Catholic University, which shows that President Sanchez de Lozada enjoys great popularity. [end recording]

Brazil

Deputy Clerot Appointed To Coordinate Constitutional Reform

PY1011231493 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Paraiba State Deputy Jose Luis Clerot, of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, is the new coordinator for the constitutional reform's procedural rules. His appointment was unanimously approved by the party leaders who met this morning at Congress. Clerot replaces Deputy Ibsen Pinheiro, who resigned his position because he is being investigated by the Budget Congressional Investigating Committee.

Agreement Signed With China To Launch Satellites

PY1011225393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Nov 93 p 20

[Text] Beijing—Brazil and China yesterday signed a space agreement for launching two Brazilian satellites in 1996 with a Chinese rocket. The agreement was signed by Science and Technology Minister Jose Israel Vargas and Science and Technology Minister [title as published] Liu Jiyuan.

The satellites, which weigh about one metric ton each and which will remain in low orbits (between 200 and 600 km high), will be equipped with special sensors capable of locating and evaluating a number of natural resources.

Vargas said: "In addition, these sensors have a higher resolution and infrared spectrum scope than those used so far."

The satellites will cost about $100 million, 30 percent of which will be paid by Brazil. The cost for using the Chinese-made "Long March" rockets will be $50 million, of which $15 million will be covered by Brazil and will be paid with exports of raw materials.

The agreement also includes the launching of a third small satellite and cooperation for joint development of projects involving biotechnology, new materials, heavy electric systems, computer systems, the environment, and renewable natural resources.

Chile

Transportation Minister on Possibile 'Reprisals' Against U.S.

PY1011185893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Speaker identified by screen captions]

[Text] Transportation Minister German Molina did not dismiss the possibility of reprisals against the U.S. Government's decision to restrict the access of Chilean airlines to the U.S. market:

[Begin recording] If we were to follow the same path, which we do not want to follow, if there is no possibility of rectifying this situation, the normal thing would be to adopt reciprocal measures. If they affect the airlines to a certain degree, we would be forced—and this must be decided by the Civil Aeronautic Board in keeping with current laws—to adopt similar measures. But we still have not reached that point. [end recording]

Molina admitted that the U.S. decision regarding Chilean airlines represents a setback in the relationship of the two countries in the air transportation field.

Air Force Releases 1994 High Command Structure

PY1011123093 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Oct 93 p C6

[Excerpts] The Chilean Air Force released yesterday through its Public Relations Department the new high command structure for 1994. [passage omitted]

Based on the promotions and transfers recently approved, the new structure is:

Air General Ramon Vega Hidalgo, commander of the Air Force.

Aviation generals: Fernando Rojas Vender, chief of staff; Jose de la Fuente Banegas, inspector general; Jaime Estay Vivero, commander of the Logistical Command; and Maximo Venegas Fuentes, chief of personnel.

Air Brigade generals: Arthur Clark Flores, director of engineering; Nelson Maturana Teran, director of administration; Carlos Infante Araneda, air attache to the United States; Raul Tapia Esdale, director of the Civil Aeronautics Directorate; Leonardo Prado Alvarez, director of antiair defense and telecommunications; and Adolfo Celedon Sandoval, auditor general of aviation.

Air Brigade generals: Carlos Alvarez Kramer, director of operations; Enrique Montealegre Jullian, director of intelligence; Leon Dufey Treskow, commander of the 3d Air Brigade; Florencio Duble Pizarro, commander of the 4th Air Brigade; Oscar Boronig Seiltgens, commander of the Instructions Brigade; Gonzalo Miranda Aguirre, commander of the 2d Air Brigade; Jorge Perez Riffo, Medical Corps director; and Edigio Machuca Ramos, commander of the 1st Air Brigade.

Air Brigade generals: Eitel von Mulhembrock Hevia, director of social welfare; and Marcos Meirelles Guzman, director of the General Support Directorate of the Logistical Command.

International Fiber Optics Telecommunications System Joined

PY1011143193 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 27 Oct 93 Economic Section p 5

[Text] Chilesat, a subsidiary of Telex Chile, has joined the Americas-1, Columbus-2, and Unisur cable networks, a fiber optics telecommunications system through submarine cables being laid out by companies from 35 countries, headed by the multinational group AT&T.

"Americas-1" will link South American and Caribbean countries with the United States and Europe. The submarine cable has the capability of providing different types of telecommunications to its associates, depending on service demands.

Chilesat executives said the agreement through which Chile joined the system will give the country the ability to project its international telecommunications services through two communications platforms: the satellite system, which is internationally established; and the submarine cable system, which will enter into operation in 1994.

The submarine cable system provides technically very good quality communications, as transmissions are not subject to external interference. It also has the advantage of being able to provide high-density communications links between nations, states, and countries.

The "Americas-1 Project" has a total cost of $278 million, and operates basically in the Caribbean and Atlantic areas. So far companies from Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Germany, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Chile are participating. "Americas-1" will be built together with other two systems, permitting all Latin American countries to join the telecommunications network comprised of Columbus-2 and Unisur.

"Americas-1" begins in Fortaleza, Brazil, and runs through to Trinidad and then to Venezuela. The cable system then branches out through St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

"Columbus-2" starts in St. Thomas and reaches Spain through the Canary Islands and Portugal. It then crosses the Mediterranean to Italy and Spain [as published].

Colombia

General Warns of Links Between FARC, Peru's Shining Path

PA1111012493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1835 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Colombian Air Force General German Castro Prieto has charged that Colombian guerrillas are getting logistical support from the Peruvian Shining Path organization and are receiving military training in Peru.

In statements to the daily EL ESPECTADOR, the officer said there is sufficient evidence to show that a "liaison" exists between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Peruvian organization. He said that a few weeks ago the Army seized documents from FARC, the largest and oldest rebel organization in the country, which indicated at least 80 AK-47, R-15, and FAL rifles were delivered by Shining Path in the Amazon border region. He also said that in an intercepted radio communication it was confirmed that FARC rebels receive military training in Shining Path camps in Peru and vice versa.

FARC, which began expanding into the Amazon jungle region in the country's southern zone in 1992, reportedly is attempting to set up a new front there. The Colombian Armed Forces, however, has deterred them, according to Gen. Castro.

Narcotrafficking organizations operate in the Amazon region along the Colombian, Peruvian, and Brazilian borders, taking advantage of the dense jungle region to build clandestine landing strips and coca plantations.

Police Uncover 'Terrorist' Plans Set for December

PA1111034493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Terrorists operating throughout the Santa Fe de Bogota area had set their sights on the local transportation terminal. Metropolitan police were able to uncover several terrorist plans that the guerrillas were preparing to implement during December. In addition, a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] urban support network was dismantled during the operation.

Santa Fe de Bogota metropolitan police arrested several men during the past few hours, charged with being members of a FARC 27th Front support network. This same guerrilla commando front is responsible for ambushing a military patrol in Uribe, Meta Department, and murdering seven soldiers.

The alleged urban guerrillas were arrested in the Santa Fe de Bogota transportation terminal when they were about to consign several packages with uniforms, cartridges, and other items on board buses heading toward Villavicencio. The police confiscated all of the packages.

Diagrams and sketches of the transportation terminal were also confiscated from the terrorists, and an initial investigation has uncovered that they were planning to dynamite various points around the area. The guerrilla support network was responsible for providing the FARC 27th Front with intelligence information on terrorist objectives throughout Santa Fe de Bogota.

This front as a rule operates in Meta Department and is composed of 100 members, headed by Marcelino Bustos, alias 'Martin Villa.'

Lack of Protection Leaves Congressmen 'Virtually Defenseless'

PA1111134693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Report by Javier Dario Restrepo from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] When about 300 congressmen took office, none of them suspected that their posts as spokesmen for the people could become deadly. Except for attacks on congressmen such as the one perpetrated against Feisal Mustafa, which was seemingly caused by his political or private actions, Congress per se had never been threatened. Now that Congress is debating such issues as the public order law, the social security law, the anti-kidnapping law, and the criminal proceedings code, it has become a target for murderers. In view of this new situation, congressmen are virtually defenseless.

According to information given to "24 Hours," there are very few bodyguards. DAS [Administrative Department of Security] bodyguards protect only 14 senators and eight representatives, and military protection covers only 13 senators and 13 representatives. That is, more than 80 percent of Congressmen are unprotected. All this means that legislative activities could be severely affected by threats and that security forces will have a new priority: to protect the country's most important factory, the one that manufactures laws and guarantees national democracy.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA1011164793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Colombian economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Unemployment has dropped to 7.9 percent. The government has no clear explanation for this, but it is believed it is due to the increase in the number of people working in domestic industry. It has been unofficially estimated

that 60 percent of people in Bogota engage in this type of work. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Oct 93 pp 1a, 1c)

The cost of living increased in October by 1.06 percent. The highest increase was in the housing sector. The annual increase of the cost of living is 19.68 percent, 3.39-percent less than the same period in 1992. Cities suffering the highest cost of living increase in October are Pasto, Medellin, and Monteria. (Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Nov 93)

Free Trade Agreement Signed With Chile

PA1011205493 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 7 Nov 93 p 8

[Text] Colombia and Chile agreed yesterday to eliminate all customs tariffs on at least 90 percent of their non-traditional exports over a five-year period, beginning in 1994.

According to reports, yesterday at dawn Jorge Marshall, Chilean economy minister, and Juan Manuel Santos, Colombian foreign trade minister, concluded negotiations on an economic complementary agreement that would create a free trade zone between both nations. Santos explained that the agreement signed is for an indefinite period of time and includes the elimination of non-duty barriers by 1 January 1994.

The reduction of duties on the non-traditional exports of both nations will be implemented in three phases. The first phase would begin on 1 January 1994 and would include Colombian agriculture and agro-industrial products, some chemical and petrochemical products, and paper from the editorial industry, as well as steel and machine products.

In the case of Chile, the first stage includes fruits, juices and preserves, wines, some chemical products, wood pastes, and manufactured copper products.

Editorial Questions Reestablishment of Ties With Cuba

PA1011223493 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 4 Nov 93 p 3A

[Editorial: "The Obsession With One's Image"]

[Text] The country has the feeling that the government is hiding a secret behind the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between Colombia and Cuba. The image of the communist dictator is being strengthened, maybe with the belief that this revamping also will improve President Gaviria's image. This is the type of nonsense that characterizes most of the leaders of this regime, which probably wants to please some fervent admirers who still fall sway to Castro's egocentrism. Among these admirers is Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the author of the new work "A Tragic Generation" and our Nobel Laureate defender of the left, who undoubtedly will be the ambassador to Havana because he was the only unofficial guest to witness the private negotiations between the heavy-handed ruler of the Cuban people and President Gaviria. The meetings were held behind closed doors amid a festive atmosphere at the House of Distinguished Guests in our historic city. Our much admired foreign minister, an astonished spectator, was also present.

What are we getting in exchange for diplomacy with Cuba, when Castro has not even given up meddling in our internal affairs? During his lively meeting with Colombian journalists, Castro emphatically refused to criticize the Colombian guerrillas' armed actions that have caused our people so much pain and devastation.

Moreover, this year the communist leader sponsored a meeting in the Cuban capital for Latin American revolutionary leftist groups. Among those present were delegates of the Colombian guerrillas who left the country secretly and were officially received by the Cuban regime, even though these people are outlaws in our country and are waging an open and bloody battle against our institutions. This fact, which has not been denied by Castro's spokesmen, should be enough to prevent any type of relations between Colombia and Cuba. This is why there is a suspicion that negotiations are taking place in secret—negotiations that cannot be disclosed to the Foreign Relations Advisory Committee, much less to the Colombian or Cuban peoples. Consequently, we have to analyze the unilateral decision made by the president of the Republic and reluctantly announced by the foreign minister. This is not a rapprochement between two peoples, the Colombian and Cuban peoples, but rather an attempt to revitalize the dwindling personality of the dictator who, as usual, continues to subjugate those whom he considers his subjects. He has made his Caribbean island experience the worst crisis of poverty, unhealthiness, and anguish during the almost 35-year-old turbulent history of the strictest and most despicable autocracy.

What is the deal? What is the quid pro quo? What deals are being concocted by the rulers of the two countries? Does President Gaviria intend to take the place of the impeached and deposed former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, whose rapprochement with Castro in no way gave him an international trump card to hold onto power? Are they again looking for a fleeting shelter for guerrilla fighters? Is Colombia giving up its sovereignty in view of the official powerlessness to control public order? What is being exchanged? Maybe Castro will become the one to indicate what policies both the Colombian Government and Armed Forces must follow to end the war—a war, which for the longest time, the last leftist dictator on the continent has stirred up, both secretly and publicly, by way of his long and tedious speeches. Our Armed Forces should have something to say about this.

What do we hope to get by negotiating with Castro? He can offer us no economic or social benefits. We are probably going to pay him commissions for presumed

favors, although he is not going to pay us for outstanding debts. It is already known that the loan that Colombia made to Cuba eight years ago has not been paid back, nor have we received a single penny of interest. Without the slightest indication that Castro is going to offer a democratic opening to Cuba, Gaviria's government wants to improve its image and that of the dictator in order that Castro can continue despoiling his subjects. He will be doing this with the support of the Gaviria administration, but not of the Colombian nation.

* Samper on National Security, Economic Issues

94SM0067A Santa Fe de Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 26 Oct 93 pp 26-27

[Text] Ernesto Samper visited CROMOS and announced a national transition agreement that will enable Colombia to accelerate its development.

"I am going to propose a national transition agreement to combat corruption, violence, and pollution," declared the Liberal precandidate emphatically.

"I believe in Colombia, in peace, in this country's extraordinary resources...and I want to become president so that I can work side by side with all Colombians to develop the process of national growth."

In a pleasant and cordial chat, Samper outlined his "presidential" ideas with assuredness and thorough knowledge. This is what he said:

In my view, pluralism is a nonelectoral political concept. It is one thing for a candidate to claim to have national appeal to win votes, and it is quite another thing to propose, based on a clear party platform, the possibility of entering into alliances or coalitions for a government.

Public Order

In the 15 years that I have been traveling around the country, this is the first time I have seen farmers in some regions, such as Cesar, complaining equally about the guerrillas and the Army. People have begun to lose their faith in the Armed Forces' ability to gain control of the situation. We must regain that ability by maintaining the active presence of the Armed Forces, modernizing them, increasing the number of troops, professionalizing 50 percent of the troops, and improving their efficiency.

If the government demands that the citizens support the Armed Forces and security agencies, civil society should have the right to discuss their efficiency. Military spending is already too big a part of the budget for civil society to be denied the right to discuss it and demand efficiency.

National Intelligence System

The country needs a national intelligence system to combat terrorism. The Achilles heel of the government's security policy is intelligence. Because this intelligence is of questionable value, terrorism and guerrilla attacks are able to prevail. The leaders of the investigating agencies process the information jointly, but they do not work together, and in fact they compete among themselves to see who will be the most successful.

We must restore the credibility of the police. Safety has become such a problem in Bogota that it is worse than in El Salvador at the height of the war. At the same time, we need a process for citizen organization. Society needs to revive concepts like the cop on the beat.

Anticorruption Statute

The problem is not people, it is systems. The country must move beyond prosecuting individuals toward prosecuting entire systems and institutions, or we will end up beheading people. We need to improve the efficiency of systems such as police operations. In the case of my campaign, it was not a question of putting the political class on trial, it was a particular incident relating to political ethics. We failed to conduct an open campaign.

We are working on an Anticorruption Statute that we will present next week. We emphasize the mechanisms of citizen participation for this struggle. One such mechanism is Popular Auditors, who will not be directly elected. This problem should be fought collectively.

Guerrilla Violence

The doors to dialogue were closed by those who left the bargaining table and locked the door from the outside.

These doors can be opened by showing an unequivocal desire to return to stay and not to leave again. The doors to dialogue are not like those swinging doors in the cowboy movies that can go either in or out.

While this is happening, it is our job to maintain the presence of the Armed Forces in every part of the country.

For this purpose it is necessary to reform the Armed Forces, to make at least 50 percent of the troops career soldiers.

I do not at all agree with regional dialogues, because that would break up the country. The issue of public order is one that must be dealt with exclusively on a national level. There may be regional approaches, but the negotiation must be on a national basis.

The Economy

Behind the problems of quality of life, I see deteriorating employment conditions. It is not a question of whether there are more or fewer job openings. There is instability; the amount of underemployment is disturbing.

The great challenge for this country is to develop a policy of more and better jobs. We will have to create 3.5 million jobs in six years.

I am very worried about the situation in the farm sector. There are areas, such as the coast, where cotton is no

longer planted. In the past, 280,000 hectares were planted in cotton, and now that figure is 14,000. This has tremendous social effects.

The key to solving the problem begins with job creation and the recovery of the farm sector.

Foreign Investment and Industrial Secrets

The part of the Constitution dealing with expropriation through administrative means must be amended.

This concept has just as negative an impact on foreign investment as the recent court decision on industrial secrets. Who will want to bring a brand into Colombia if any tax official can demand that he reveal the formula? These are the two biggest institutional threats to foreign investment.

From Liberalization to Social Investment

I think there is no turning back on the liberalization; we must preserve what has been accomplished so far. When we talk about going further and deepening the liberalization process, we are not saying that we will restore tariffs or impose import licenses again or deprivatize companies. Nothing that has already been done will be reversed. What I do believe is that we must make progress in other areas, such as technology, infrastructure, and social investment. That will enable us to go from the process of liberalization to that of internationalizing the economy.

Vice Presidency Not Negotiable

Before the results of the parliamentary elections are known, it is impossible to make any decision about the vice president. The only thing I am sure of at this point is that the vice president should be someone who could replace the president. The vice presidency is not negotiable.

Transition Agreement

This country should enter into a transition agreement. There are constitutional issues on which we should reach a national political understanding. The first one is public order. I cannot imagine that I would have a position on public order that was diametrically opposed to that of another candidate. There are subtle differences, but support for the institutions must be a key principle.

* Attitudes Toward Ethics Debate Surveyed

94SM0068A Santa Fe de Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 11 Oct 93 pp 28-29

[Text] The debate on ethics and morality in politics has served all purposes. The first person to announce the danger that the process would be demonized was the sole leader of the Liberals, former President Turbay.

Then, precandidate Ernesto Samper's advisers took it upon themselves to draft a code of ethics *ad usum delphini*, and not content with that, they decided to apply it to two members of Congress.

The director in charge of imposing the sanctions was Senator Jorge Valencia of the National Salvation Movement (MSN), who had become the great inquisitor for this case. And the victims were Representatives Jorge Eduardo Gechem Turbay and Rodrigo Turbay Cote.

The National Consulting Center has conducted a survey on this issue for CROMOS, and the results are very interesting.

The vast majority of the respondents believe that we should fight corruption, but only 42 percent believe that politicians are the ones to lead this campaign.

The announcement of the expulsions from the Samper camp changed the voting intentions of only 5 percent of those surveyed. The remaining 95 percent of the respondents indicated that they had not changed their minds about whom to vote for. Of the 5 percent, Samper gained a point and Pastrana lost a point.

The adventures of the great inquisitor (he had already played this role in previous incarnations, which took him from the Liberal Progressives to the New Liberalism, from the ruling party to National Salvation, and then back again) have proceeded, then, without any major setbacks. Although the failure of the Ad Hoc Commission (which he himself chaired), which was to investigate the causes of the escape from the cathedral, was about to tarnish his mystic image, the fact is that now, decked out in his Sunday preaching cassock, he appears willing to make new proclamations and embark on new adventures in defense of the faith, tilting against the windmills of all heresies.

National Survey on Morality Campaign in Politics; National Consulting Center for CROMOS; Survey conducted on 28 and 29 September 1993 in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, and Bucaramanga among 602 respondents of all parties

In your opinion, does the morality campaign currently being waged by the presidential candidates respond to a real desire to correct the existing vices in politics?

Yes	47%
No	44%
Does not know/no response	9%

Do you believe that the application of ethical standards to the current political campaign will lead to the election of better government leaders and legislators?

Yes	60%
No	37%
Does not know/no response	3%

In your opinion, do the parties' executive boards have the necessary authority to effectively eliminate corrupt individuals from politics?

Yes	42%

No	52%
Does not know/no response	6%
Do you believe that the presidential candidates should expel immoral politicians from their campaigns?	
Yes	92%
No	7%
Does not know/no response	1%
Has the recent polemic between Andres Pastrana and Ernesto Samper on ethical issues changed your decision about whom to vote for?	
No	95%
Yes	5%
What was your voting intention (before)?	
Did not change	95%
Andres Pastrana	2%
Samper	1%
Antonio Navarro	1%
Alvaro Gomez	—
None	—
Does not know/no response	Less than ½ percent
What is your voting intention (now)?	
Did not change	95%
Samper	2%
Andres Pastrana	1%
None	1%
Maza Marquez	—
Antonio Navarro	—
Parejo Gonzalez	—
Does not know/no response	Less than ½ percent
Net change of 5%:	
Samper	+1
Pastrana	-1
Do you believe that the newly appointed ethics auditor in Ernesto Samper's campaign will be able to prevent the participation of corrupt politicians in that movement?	
Yes	12%
No	58%
Does not know/no response	30%
Who do you think will be able to combat corruption most effectively as president of the Republic: Ernesto Samper, Andres Pastrana, or Antonio Navarro?	
Ernesto Samper	29%
Andres Pastrana	26%
Antonio Navarro	17%
None	23%
Does not know/no response	5%

Ecuador

Police Arrest Suspected Cali Cartel Member Wanted by U.S.

PA1111050893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0045 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Quito, 8 Nov (EFE)—Colombian citizen Herber Luna, a presumed member of the Colombian "Cali Cartel" who is wanted by U.S. authorities, was arrested with two of his compatriots on 8 November in Quito.

Ecuadoran narcotics police reported that Luna was arrested with Colombians Amparo Castro and Rodrigo Cobo at a hotel and that they were in possession of 7 kg of cocaine hydrochloride hidden inside a transformer. Police spokesmen said that Luna is wanted by U.S. authorities and that he came to Quito to improve the shipping of Colombian cocaine from Ecuadoran ports to the U.S. coasts. The three Colombians denied being drug traffickers and said that they were arrested based on suspicions only.

As part of the same operation, police also arrested in Quito 69-year-old Colombian Rafael Angarica, who admitted that he hid more than 4 kg of cocaine hydrochloride "by assignment" in his luggage. He was supposed to deliver the drug in a Spanish city that he did not identify.

The four arrests happened hours after the police disbanded an international gang of presumed drug traffickers in cities in the Provinces of Lojas, at the Peruvian border, and Pichincha, where Quito is located, and after they captured an undisclosed number of Ecuadoreans and Colombians. Police also seized large quantities of drugs.

The details of the so-called "Operation Green Gold" have not been disclosed, nor has it been confirmed if Luna was involved in it. The media reported, however, that "Operation Green Gold" was carried out on 5 November in several cities of both provinces and left at least one presumed drug trafficker dead.

German President Praises Ecuador-Peru Border Dialogue

PA1011144893 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] German President Richard von Weizsacker today praised Ecuador's efforts to solve peacefully its territorial conflict with Peru.

Meanwhile Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen reiterated that Ecuador (?needs) an outlet to the Amazon river. A just solution for Ecuadoreans means that we can recover our characteristic of being an Amazon country. Ecuador needs to have a true, physical, territorial, and sovereign outlet to the Amazon river, Duran-Ballen pointed out.

During a joint news conference by Duran-Ballen and von Weizsacker at the Carondelet Presidential Palace, the German president praised [words indistinct] for seeking a solution to the conflict it maintains with its neighbor, Peru. We are impressed with the efforts being made by Ecuador to solve peacefully the conflicts with neighboring countries, and we would like to [words indistinct], he stated.

The Ecuadoran and Peruvian Governments are conducting direct negotiations to solve [passage indistinct]. Duran-Ballen said that the Ecuadoran-Peruvian dialogue is permanent between the foreign ministries of the two countries, and he emphasized that he would be the first Ecuadoran president ever to officially visit Peru some time in December or next January.

The Ecuadoran president reiterated that the bilateral dialogue—that began in 1990 after a foiled military incident made the countries fear a new war similar to those that took place in 1941 and 1981—should culminate with his country having a sovereign outlet to the Amazon river.

Von Weizsacker emphasized on Monday that Ecuador has shown its southern neighbor that it is willing to settle the old conflicts through peaceful means. The German Government is very pleased with these efforts that contribute to stabilizing democracy throughout Latin America, he added. The German president, who has been in Ecuador since Saturday, will conclude his official visit tomorrow.

Defends Banana Exports to EC

PA1011134193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] German President Richard von Weizsacker has defended free trade of Latin American bananas to the EC, and voiced his support for preventing further protectionism. The opening of world trade must be maintained, and we—within the EC—would like to advocate firmly preventing further protectionism, the German president said during a news conference in Quito.

We seek to prevent other products from this hemisphere from suffering import restrictions. Protectionism not only represents obstacles to the modernization of national economies, but also hinders free competition among the countries, the German president added.

On 1 June, the EC imposed special restrictions—quotas and tariffs—on the entry of bananas into its market in order to protect production coming from former colonies and overseas territories of its 12 members.

The German president added that in the organization of the banana market within the EC, we can only obtain a rectification by this organization through a ruling of the European Tribunal of Justice. He added that Mercedes Benz has announced it is willing to buy Ecuadoran bananas for two years at a value of $100 million and with payment in trucks.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes said that this system of bartering bananas with Germany would be a good strategy to extend to other European countries. Germany is the main buyer of Ecuadoran bananas, after the United States. Bananas are Ecuador's second export product, after petroleum, with annual sales over $600 million. Banana exports in the first nine months of 1993 amounted to $1.9 million tons, which is higher than last year.

Military Meeting Held With Peru on Border Conflicts

PA1111050493 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Nov 93

[From the "Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] The Ecuadoran media today reported that two military delegations from Ecuador and Peru have met in the border city of Huaquillas, El Oro Province, Ecuador, to coordinate information campaigns and consultation mechanisms to prevent border incidents.

At the 7 November meeting, the Peruvian and Ecuadoran delegations were headed by Tumbes Division Chief General Jorge Ramos and by 1st Infantry Brigade Commander General Telmo Sandoval, respectively.

Both parties agreed to establish information campaigns on current rules that allow free movement of people along the southern Ecuadoran border and the northern Peruvian border, because a lack of knowledge of these rules has frequently sparked incidents. They also agreed to appoint a bilateral commission to clean up the international river channel located in this region, as well as agreed to meet again in the Peruvian city of Tumbes in the near future.

Meanwhile, EFE reported that both generals told the media in Huaquillas, 600 km south of Quito, that both armies are willing to collaborate to prevent border problems. Peru and Ecuador maintain territorial disputes that have caused frequent conflicts and that have led both armies to war several times during this century. Currently, however, both governments are negotiating to find a peaceful solution.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA1011155493

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Ecuadoran economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

Ecuadoran Energy and Mines Minister Francisco Acosta today rejected the notion that the lawsuit brought by Amazon region Indians in a New York City court against Texaco could negatively affect the bidding for oil concessions that Ecuador has scheduled for January 1994. He said that approximately 100 foreign firms have expressed a desire to participate. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1752 GMT 6 Nov 93)

Paraguay

'Financial Crisis' Closes Colorado Party's Paper PATRIA

PY1111180193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Nov 93 p 11

[Excerpt] The Colorado Party mouthpiece, the newspaper PATRIA, will not be published for 90 days. This was decided yesterday during an ordinary session of the Colorado Party executive board. PATRIA Director Carlos Podesta justified the decision, noting that a new orientation will be sought toward competition with other newspapers. However, Ireneo Acosta, PATRIA employees union leader, reported that the newspaper has on its payroll a lot of people who never show up for work.

The Colorado Party executive board decided unanimously not to publish PATRIA for 90 days, during which time a solution to the serious financial crisis affecting the newspaper will be sought. [passage omitted]

Febrerista, Democratic Movements Join National Encounter

PY1011132993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Nov 93 p 4

[Excerpt] The Febrerista Renewal Movement and the Democratic and Social Coalition, represented by their leadership, yesterday joined the National Encounter Alliance. The representatives of these two movements explained that the reason for this decision lies in the need to converge and consolidate, in a third political space, all the ideas and efforts being made by these sectors in a separate and isolated manner.

The leaders stated that with the same hopes that accompanied us during the struggle against Stroessner's dictatorship, when several social sectors of the country embraced socialism under the flag of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PRF), we now incorporate our forces into the National Encounter. [passage omitted]

Free Fatherland Renews Leadership, Criticizes Government

PY1011134493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 10

[Text] The Free Fatherland Movement renewed its national authorities during a nationwide conference held this past weekend. Moreover, the political movement outlined its working strategies for the 1993-94 period. The movement's leaders noted that the most significant issue of the event was that the majority of the leaders elected represent peasant unions.

Thus Cristobal Olazar, peasant leader from Concepcion, was elected secretary general and Juan Arrom joint secretary general. The following were elected leading members of the movement: Eudelio Meza, Celia Asuncion Candia de Lopez, Jose Herminio Bordon, Agustin Acosta, Oscar Ayala, and Anuncio Marti. Rafael Rojas Barreto, Porfiria Guerrero, Antonio Gonzalez, and Ramon Machado were elected alternate members.

New Secretary General Cristobal Olazar commented: "The movement has grown stronger lately due to the massive participation by peasant leaders, who have realized that the neoliberal policy will only worsen the situation of the unions and most neglected social sectors. For this reason we seek to strengthen our project so as to be able to efficiently face the situation."

Moreover, Olazar disclosed that the conference also authorized the reappearance of the movement's bulletin, which is used to disseminate this political organization's ideas.

Olazar also stated that the leftist leaders unanimously oppose the national government's stance before the United Nations regarding the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.

Olazar said: "This government does not realize how incoherent it is. On one hand it preaches the defense of liberties and free competition, but on the other hand it is against Cuba enjoying these rights. This is a true national and international disgrace that we are being forced to endure."

Bishops Warn of Discontent, Corruption, Stagnation

PY1011191793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Nov 93 pp 24-25

[Text] During the second day of the Paraguayan Bishops Conference (CEP), the bishops again reasserted that there is rampant corruption in all national sectors, at the individual and institutional levels. This is the conclusion of a study on the national situation currently being discussed by the CEP, which is meeting in Asuncion. Details of this study were disclosed in a 9 November news conference held by CEP Chairman Monsignor Jorge Livieres Banks and CEP Secretary General Monsignor Celso Yegros. The CEP expressed the same concern during an August meeting.

The negative points mentioned by the priests deal with the disproportion between socioeconomic and political problems and the unfortunate statements made by national leaders. Livieres said: "The divisions within political parties, which have rapidly resumed their political infighting, and the prevalence of rampant corruption, which was promised to be eradicated." [sentence as published]

He added: "However, it seems that corruption is still rampant. We believe the real situation is quite different and we hope positive situations will prevail over the negative ones."

Livieres also stressed the positive situations that resulted after the new administration took office. He mentioned that one of them is the strengthening of the national

democratization process. He said the church is convinced that the democratization process is based on the strengthening of institutions.

Livieres also noted the importance of the Legislative and Judicial Branches for the prevalence and expansion of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and political freedoms that are evident and the prevalence of which are acknowledged. The CEP hopes this atmosphere "will be strengthened through the work of a Congress that will not limit itself to political activities but will find answers for social issues such as the labor code, which was an eloquent concern, and other pending issues such as the magistrates council and the military organization law.

He added: "Moreover, we believe the Judicial Branch continues to be an issue of concern in view of its defects and limitations, and because there are signs of mistrust about fair justice, something that will allow people to feel safe.

Livieres also said that in their study of the national situation, the bishops established that all groups are affected by similar situations. He said there is a lot of improvising, a lack of resources, and a disproportion between the willingness of national leaders and the real possibilities.

For his part, Monsignor Yegros said: "By corruption we mean any action, attitude, and lifestyle that is not in keeping with ethical or moral standards, the truth, and the laws. Corruption entails all of this. What we are saying is that we need an increasingly stronger Judicial Branch that acts with more fairness and greater freedom."

Yegros added: "We have seen that Congress grants more importance to political issues than to social and economic issues."

He said the new Constitution calls for the issuance of numerous new laws so the country can improve, and that concentrating so much effort and time on political issues is detrimental to other needs.

Yegros stated: "We are not saying that Congress is not doing its job, but we believe this is a mistake and that congressmen should be making a greater effort. We are not criticizing them. We believe they should place more emphasis on the serious problems affecting the country, particularly economic, social, and cultural problems."

Yegros also noted that priests and the church are offering their cooperation to help strengthen national institutions.

He said: "If the Judicial and Legislative Branches are not strengthened along with other national institutions, democracy and development will not be achieved. Therefore, it is imperative to restore the prevalence of moral values in the country. This will be achieved with the cooperation of all citizens and in as much as the church spreads its good message of the Gospel and men change."

Yegros also said there is obvious general discontent. He stated: "In view of the inoperativeness reported in the press, we wonder how we can give hope to a people who may be losing their hope and their faith. There is hope in man, and this is what we should promote without seeming to be naive or unaware of the real situation affecting the country."

Bishops Livieres and Yegros also said the CEP meetings are not only concerned about church matters but about national affairs as well.

They said: "We insist that national leaders should take into account the overall situation, that they should be aware of all needs and not merely grant privileges to a specific group."

Peru

Shining Path Clandestine Directorate Rejects Dialogue

PA1011195293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1807 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Lima, 10 Nov (AFP)—It was learned today in Lima that the clandestine directorate of the Maoist Shining Path [SL] believes the proposal for peace negotiations issued in September by their imprisoned leader Abimael Guzman, alias President Gonzalo, is a "ridiculous and clumsy hoax."

The "Central Committee," in a communique issued on 7 October, released during the wave of recent attacks, and distributed to the media on 10 November, accuses President Alberto Fujimori of having "staged the sinister and wicked hoax that, on the one hand, uselessly seeks to discredit President Gonzalo, while on the other, is nothing more than a cry of his darkest dreams for the 'SL's capitulation.'"

This "ridiculous and clumsy hoax that no one, not even a bird brain, would take seriously, will disappear in the swirl of the unceasing people's war," the text of the communique adds. [passage omitted]

The SL "Central Committee" in its 7 October communique states however, that "President Gonzalo" continues to be the "leader of the party and the revolution," citing in particular statements made by Guzman before he was arrested and according to which, "nothing should and nothing can stop us from achieving the party's goals."

In conclusion, the clandestine directorate states that the Communist Party of Peru-Shining Path is successfully implementing the "Fourth Strategic Plan for the Development of the People's War to Conquer Power, and the 101st and second to last military plan to Build the Conquest of Power."

Since this communique was issued a new letter was publicly disclosed by President Fujimori in which four more high-ranking imprisoned leaders state they "support President Gonzalo's letter (...) that calls for talks."

However, the clandestine rebels, ignoring those calls, continued their actions throughout the country. In Lima, a strong wave of attacks preceded the 31 October referendum during which the Peruvian people approved the draft of a new Constitution.

Air Force Shoots Down Colombian Airplane Carrying Cocaine

PY1011143893 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Oct 93 p 17

[Text] Yurimaguas, 29 Oct (LA REPUBLICA)—Tucano airplanes from the Peruvian Air Force shot down this afternoon a Colombian light airplane carrying three individuals and 500 kg of cocaine base. The airplane crashed about 20 km from Lagunas, in Alto Amazonas Province.

According to witnesses the airplane exploded and was completely burned after hitting the large trees of the region. The occupants were not able to escape from the crash.

Despite the secrecy maintained by Air Force and DEA agents stationed in Alto Amazonas Province, it was learned that the Colombian Cessna airplane had been carrying 500 kg of cocaine base, worth about 500,000 new soles.

According to unofficial sources the airplane, which was coming from Bellavista in San Martin Region, was probably going to unload its cargo in Lagunas.

At approximately 1700 people living in Yurimaguas saw how the Tucano airplanes were chasing the Colombian plane, which paid no attention to signals to land.

A few minutes later the Peruvian airplanes began shooting at the Colombian plane, which caught fire and crashed outside the Arahuante settlement, which is located about 20 km from Lagunas, the capital of Lagunas district, in Alto Amazonas Province.

According to people living in Arahuante the airplane was completely burned and its three occupants were not able to escape from the crash.

Both the Air Force and the National Police, which have jurisdiction in the region of Lagunas, where drug trafficking activities have increased over the last few months, are maintaining complete secrecy about this event.

The reason for the greater drug-trafficking activities in the Loreto region is because drug traffickers can no longer operate at ease in Upper Huallaga, where the watch of the Armed Forces has been reinforced, and also because they no longer have the protection of the terrorist groups.

Peruvian President Interviewed

PY0911164693 Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 3 Nov 93 pp 5-7

[Interview with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori by Sergio Xavier Filho in Lima, sometime "before 31 October;" place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Xavier Filho] Are you facing an ethical dilemma because you closed Congress, trampled on the Constitution, and wrote a new constitution to suit your government?

[Fujimori] The new Constitution undoubtedly favors me. But it will result in continuity in the program and in the work. A new president would have to learn everything about the state apparatus, which would take time and impair the reforms.

[Xavier Filho] Based on that, presidents would stay in their posts for ever, just to avoid wasting time.

[Fujimori] I don't mean it like that. I believe continuity is essential at this moment and I believe the Constitution should allow for presidential reelection.

[Xavier Filho] Do you want to be reelected?

[Fujimori] I like being president. I am enthusiastic, but I want just one more term.

[Xavier Filho] What is your government's priority: to fight terrorism or to fight misery?

[Fujimori] These problems are interconnected, but we chose terrorism as our first priority. We cannot resolve social problems without first fighting terror because we will attract investment only when there is security in the country.

[Xavier Filho] The arrest of Shining Path [SL] leader Abimael Guzman was a major achievement for your government. Guzman recently sent two letters to the Peruvian people speaking about pacification and even praising the Fujimori shock of April 1992. Under what conditions was Guzman interrogated?

[Fujimori] His interrogation is cordial, even though it sometimes goes on for more than six hours, into the early hours.

[Xavier Filho] It is said that he was tortured to make him write those two letters which will certainly strengthen the yes-vote in the plebiscite.

[Fujimori] Guzman is a fictitious leader who easily backs down when confronted with facts. He is weak, cowardly. He has no strength to confront difficulties. He has not been tortured, either physically or psychologically.

[Xavier Filho] Then why is he cooperating to end 15 years of terrorism? Is there any possibility of freeing him from his life sentence?

[Fujimori] It is impossible to reach that type of agreement with him. About 90 percent of terrorist leaders have been sentenced to life imprisonment, and we have not even thought of reducing sentences or granting pardons. The government wants to accelerate pacification, but we cannot consider freeing someone who ordered attacks that caused more than 27,000 deaths. We still converse with Guzman through our Agent 002 [not further identified].

[Xavier Filho] Mr. President, why did Guzman change his mind?

[Fujimori] It is an incomprehensible, absurd situation. After killing so many people, he suddenly proposes peace. For me, his imprisonment conditions are the only explanation. Guzman is in a small jail measuring 2 meters by 2.5 meters, including the bathroom. It is 3 meters high, and this causes depression. The first day he saw the jail he asked the guard: "Will I have to spend the rest of my life in here?" That is what we might negotiate. If pacification is accelerated, we could improve his imprisonment conditions.

[Xavier Filho] Yet despite the jails, terrorism continues. What strategy is the government using to fight the SL?

[Fujimori] Misery is directly linked with terrorism. On the outskirts of Lima there is poverty, and this is the area where the SL is most powerful. We are using the police and the Army in those areas, but a lot more effort is needed. The only way to fight terrorism is by giving people a minimum standard of living. We are building schools and installing potable water and electric power services in those ghettos. This work is being done by the Army. We are killing two birds with one stone. Another economic measure is the import surtax system. If the price of rice on the international market is too low, we raise the import surtax to guarantee the competitiveness of home-grown rice. It is a strategic measure, because the SL is very strong in the Andean region, which is the main farming area.

[Xavier Filho] Drug trafficking involves $2 billion a year, about 10 percent of the Peruvian economy. How will you tackle this problem?

[Fujimori] Drugs are not just a Peruvian problem; the solution calls for a global strategy. I feel that the world unfortunately will have to coexist with the problem of drugs for a long time. In 1993 we downed 80 traffickers' planes. Drug trafficking is a disease, and if there were a magic formula we would eliminate it. We are accumulating deficits of up to $500 million a year in our trade balance because of the dollar exchange rate, which is unreal. Traffickers bring dollars to the local market causing import prices to drop and making our products uncompetitive abroad.

[Xavier Filho] Peru has managed to balance its accounts, and the economy seems under control. Yet unemployment surpasses 15 percent and underemployment runs much higher. Was the cost of the adjustment too high?

[Fujimori] Underemployment has always been very high. Only 10 percent of workers have registered labor cards; this is nothing new. Everyone complains about low salaries, and they are right. We had to cut the spending of state-run enterprises, whose deficit totalled $2.5 billion a year, and the method was through dismissals. The Agriculture Ministry occupied four 12-story buildings, and there was no room to sit. Today the ministry occupies just one building and the dismissed workers have bought vehicles and are rendering public transportation services. The social situation is still serious, but we are on the right course. Over the next three years, our GDP will grow by 4 to 5 percent. Inflation will continue to drop from 40 to 10 or 20 percent annually.

[Xavier Filho] Is Peru receiving foreign support for its economic program?

[Fujimori] Over the past 12 months, we have received $800 million from the First World in investments in the fishing and mining sectors, and in the purchase of state-run enterprises. Even the U.S. Nabisco company bought a cookie factory.

[Xavier Filho] You seem to despise political parties, yet you are linked with two political fronts.

[Fujimori] Some politicians are hostages of their own parties. Things are different with me. I manage two movements, the New Majority and Change 90, and I give myself the freedom to choose my ministers. If I had to consult with parties over filling some posts, the country would become ungovernable. By the way, that is the problem of traditional democracies. At the time of designating ministers, a president linked with a specific party must satisfy all interests, including the economic interests of those who participated in the political campaign.

[Xavier Filho] Is there disagreement within your cabinet?

[Fujimori] Policies are not designed by ministers but by the president. I personally direct the counterterrorism policy, the socioeconomic policy, and the program to

construct schools, highways, hospitals, and airports. I have an engineer's mind. I always go by logic, I design the strategy, and I demand results from those responsible for implementing them. One of the problems in Latin America is that things are only half done. Those who do not comply with my instructions, at the speed I want, are dismissed.

[Xavier Filho] How do you fight corruption? How can you prevent overpricing in major government projects?

[Fujimori] I am an engineer and I know the cost of building one kilometer of road. The president of a country must be an engineer, otherwise he could be conned by public works.

Poll Shows 'No' Vote Did Not Mean Rejecting Fujimori

PY1011233193 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 4 Nov 93 p A4

[All figures as published]

[Text] Representatives from several polling companies believe that one-fifth of those who voted "no" in the last plebiscite approve of President Alberto Fujimori's administration.

"One of the first conclusions we can reach after this plebiscite is that the 'no' vote was not to the government but to different parts of the Constitution and to various problems including some of an emotional content," Datum Company Executive President Manuel Torrado told EL PERUANO.

We can conclude that one out of every five people who voted "no" approves of the current administration's performance. This clearly shows that the plebiscite returns do not refer to President Alberto Fujimori's popularity, the analyst said.

He explained that the reason why one group of the Peruvian people (47 percent) voted "no" can easily be identified (see the list at the end of the article) and that only 7 percent of the people who voted "no" really disapprove of the presidential administration.

This is very significant and completely counters the rumors that Peru has been divided in two since the plebiscite was conducted on 31 October, he added.

The analyst also pointed out that no one represented the "no" vote and this made it very difficult to develop a strategy supporting the "yes" vote without a visible opponent.

Finally, he said his company's poll classify the government as follows: 6 percent of the people believe the administration is very good, 42 percent that it is good, 6 percent that it is bad, and 2 percent that it is very bad.

"No:" Total of votes:	47 percent
Support the president	20 percent
Disagree with the new Constitution	13 percent
Disagree with the administration	7 percent
Believe plebiscite does not solve the economic crisis	4 percent
Oppose Fujimori's reelection	4 percent
Oppose changes in the country	1 percent
Believe there is no job stability	1 percent
Know nothing about the Constitution	1 percent
Oppose the president's authoritarianism	1 percent

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA1011165093

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Peruvian economic developments monitored through 9 November. Source is cited in parentheses following each item.

The Presidency Ministry signed an agreement worth $28 million for school lunch programs. The agreement was signed with the EEC and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. (Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Nov 93)

The Central Reserve Bank has reported that net Peruvian reserves amounted to $2.552 billion by the end of October, $31 million higher than the previous month. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1622 GMT 22 Oct 93)

The National Statistics and Information Technology Institute reported that production is expected to increase 7 percent in 1993. In September the GNP recovered 9.9 percent compared to September 1992 and increased 6.6 percent between January and September. The fishing industry registered the most growth with 51.5 percent; the smallest growth was in retailing with a 3.8 percent recovery. During that same period agriculture improved 4.7 percent, mining 9.1 percent, and manufacturing 9.5 percent. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT 4 Nov 93)

President Fujimori's government asked Congress to authorize contracting a foreign debt in 1994 of up to $2.7 billion. It will be broken down as follows: 33.3 percent to productive sectors, 33.3 percent to social sectors, 7.5 percent to fight guerrillas and drug trafficking, and 25.9 percent to support balance of payments. Peru's foreign debt is approximately $25 billion. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1651 GMT 4 Nov 93)

President Alberto Fujimori announced that a Japanese foundation has donated $3 million for building new schools. (Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Nov 93)

Uruguay

Poll Shows 6-Percent Net Upturn in Lacalle's Popularity

PY1011162093

[Editorial Report] Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish on 3 November publishes on page 32 a 1,600-word unattributed article on an evaluation made by Equipos Consultores Asociados of a poll conducted by the Banco de Datos de Opinion Publica in October, comparing the popularity of President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Montevideo Mayor Tavare Vazquez.

The evaluation says that disapproval of government actions has been the characteristic of public opinion over the last few years. According to the poll only 18 percent approved of the administration of President Lacalle, while 56 percent disapproved and 22 percent neither approved nor disapproved. This shows that the net result, approval minus disapproval, is minus 38 points.

But despite these figures the medium and short-term trends show that President Lacalle's position has improved in the short term, as approval has increased 5 points while disapproval has decreased 1 point as compared to August, making therefore an improvement of 6 points in the net balance. The evaluation also shows an improvement in the medium term, with a 15 percent average approval rating this year as compared to 1992, when an average 13 percent of those polled approved of the Lacalle administration. The net balance is thus minus 45 points, as compared to minus 52 points in 1992.

Regarding the administration of Montevideo Mayor Tavare Vazquez, the poll shows that 52 percent of the people living in Montevideo approve of his administration, while 24 percent disapprove of it, and 18 percent remain neutral. The mayor has thus improved the approval rating of his administration by 4 points as compared with the previous poll.

Venezuela

Minister Confirms List of Possible Conspirators

PA1111221593 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 10 Nov 93 p 5

[Article by Armando J. Pernia and Ibis Helena Mendoza]

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon confirmed last night that there is a list of 200 civilians who could be directly or indirectly linked to conspiratorial activities, and he said that these people should be summoned for questioning before the Second Military Court in Caracas.

Munoz said, "the list includes people from all walks of life," but he refused to give any names. Nevertheless, it was learned that the list includes several congressmen, businessmen, and newsmen. Meanwhile, Munoz did say that the list included prominent individuals who will be asked to answer a questionnaire prepared by Judge Colonel Ramon Moreno Natera.

Munoz stressed: "Our intelligence work has allowed us to prepare this list of names, but this does not mean that everyone on the list is guilty. Through a process of elimination, we are going to find out exactly who is engaged in conspiratorial activities."

The military leader said that all theories are being explored, including the theory that people who have infiltrated the labor movement are instigating labor conflicts, such as the national strike of public sector professionals and technicians that was slated for today. Munoz added: "We do not have any conclusive evidence, and consequently we cannot accuse or point a finger at anyone, but we are trying to put two and two together."

Vice Adm. Munoz said that based on the intelligence reports he has received, he has already pared down the list of 200 civilians. In turn, it is believed that today Munoz will order Judge Moreno Natera to summon the first batch of individuals suspected of these subversive activities.

It has been learned that on 8 November the Directorate of Military Intelligence, under orders from the court, carried out 16 raids in different locations in Caracas and in El Tuy, Miranda State. The raids were conducted late into the night, but the defense minister said that no one was arrested.

Rumors Sparked by Pardon

On another subject, the Defense Minister denied reports that President Velasquez is about to resign or has asked Munoz to take over the Presidency. Munoz said: "That is false and absurd. It is part of the permanent rumor campaign aimed at destabilizing the system."

Bye-Bye, Prosecutors

General Atilio Zambrano, director general of Military Justice, has confirmed rumors circulating in military judicial circles by announcing that new military prosecutors will be sworn in next Thursday. Corvette Captain Jose Vivas Saez and Army Captain Alexis Balza will be replaced. These men were participating in the investigation into the charges made by journalist Jose Vicente Rangel. "Complacency" and "inefficiency" were mentioned as reasons for the replacements.

Interior Minister Denies Possible Purge of Cabinet

PA1111043193 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 10 Nov 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Interior Minister Carlos Delgado Chapellin by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Delgado Chapellin has stated that the country is enjoying absolute tranquility, despite all the gossip and false reports. When he was asked about a possible purge of the cabinet, the minister defended the ministers. He said the ministers are men of honor and goodwill who have rendered their services to the country in a time of emergency. He admitted the possibility of a purge, but that it would occur in other government sectors and not in the executive cabinet.

Commenting on the Attorney General's statements that the electric power outages had been political actions, he said: The government is seriously studying these events, and it is seeking the advice of technicians. It also has initiated a thorough investigation, not only on the technical aspects, but also on the people who work for the electric companies. If necessary, the government will bring in technicians from those foreign firms that sold us the equipment in order that, with due respect to Venezuela, they can clearly establish what prompted the outages. We understand that the shutdowns could have been caused by a number of circumstances, including simple accidents.

[Reporter] The Congress has requested the resignation of several ministers. Will they be removed?

[Delgado Chapellin] I do not see any reason to request the resignation of these ministers, because they had absolutely nothing to do with any of this.

[Reporter] Will there be a purge in the cabinet?

[Delgado Chapellin] A purge could take place in other places, but not in the cabinet. This is a cabinet of serious people who have worked for Venezuela in a time of emergency—a time of transition until the elections. This is not an inferior cabinet about which one can talk about a purge.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, you have not revealed what really happened at Miraflores Palace.

[Delgado Chapellin] Well, that is what the judge is doing right now, because it is his job to do so. This no longer depends on the executive, who, through the Judicial Police, determined the hoax suffered by the president [reference to case in which drug trafficker Larry Tovar Acuna was erroneously pardoned]. The case has been sent to court, and the judge is the one who has to decide if a crime was committed, what kind of crime, and those who perpetrated it.

[Reporter] With less than a month to go before the elections, what, in your opinion, is the national situation?

[Delgado Chapellin] I believe the national situation, despite the amount of rumors and absolutely false stories in most cases, is in a state of tranquility. The people of Caracas and in the rest of the country are carrying out their normal activities and preparing for the 5 December elections. I believe one of our goals in this transition period is to lead the country to Election Day, and we are getting close to maintaining this objective. It is now important that the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council] and the political candidates themselves instill in the people the desire to vote and to have a high turnout and that this civic event be held, as always, in absolutely tranquility. The government is willing to give every bit of support possible to the CSE to accomplish this goal.

States Cabinet Support for Velasquez

PA1111033393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0032 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Statement by Venezuelan Interior Minister Carlos Delgado Chapellin at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] Statement: Miraflores Palace, 10 November 1993. His Excellency Ramon J. Velasquez, president of Venezuela. When we heeded your call to cooperate with you in this transition government that emerged when Congress elected you president to conclude the 1989 to 1994 constitutional period, we did it with the loftiest sentiment of personal selflessness and citizen responsibility and solidarity toward the country, as we were aware of the temporary mission we were going to perform.

We are here to be useful to the country, participating in a government presided over by a citizen as distinguished as you have been throughout your productive life at the service of Venezuela. We were aware of the political situation the country has been experiencing and that your government and our cooperation were the result of a long and profound crisis. We were aware of the difficulties we would have to face to ensure by all means continuity in the administration of the government's affairs, as well as in the holding of the December 1993 elections. We were aware, of course, of the difficulties our government would face, as it stemmed from the most acute political crisis of the past decades, but we have also become aware of the government's enormous strength, because we are not immersed in the electoral campaign, do not have a presidential candidate, do not respond to partisan discipline or economic interests, and do not have, either individually or collectively, a political agenda for the future. We are also aware that your government has the strength to have in its hands the future of political organizations and the security of democratic institutions, which could also be going from crisis to crisis. All of this has enabled us to make decisions in this short period for the benefit of the country's economic, social, and political development

which in previous years neither Congress nor the executive were able to make. In that way, the government has had to administer a crisis in a precarious manner and legislate at the same time. This government is not the future beneficiary of its own work; others will be, and they are duty bound to endorse the effort we are conducting to consolidate the Republic in economic and institutional terms.

As members of our cabinet, we neither accept nor are prepared to accept attempts to destroy this very government, which is the result of a situation of well-known historic conflicts and whose only mission has been to fill the void in the government which came about when Congress decided to authorize the trial of the president. We do not accept nor are we prepared to accept attempts to destroy your honor and selflessness just because you took on the enormous responsibility of governing within a situation of emergency and wanted to strengthen democracy. We do not accept nor are we prepared to accept attempts to destroy the honor and disinterested spirit of cooperation of those of us who decided to accompany you in the endeavor of transferring power in February 1995 to the next president whom Venezuelans will freely elect on 5 December.

We do not accept nor are we prepared to accept the besmirching of your moral and family legacy nor that of your ministers. We do not accept nor are we prepared to accept that a regrettable incident should be used to orchestrate a disproportionate campaign aimed at destroying the moral fiber of the members of your government and questioning the efficiency demonstrated through results in your presidential administration. In sum, we do not accept nor are we prepared to allow that a political crisis should seek to destroy your government, which ultimately is the guarantee that the political transition we are experiencing continues on a democratic course.

In view of all of the above and in the spirit of recomposing the political picture and strengthening your administration, we, as members of your Council of Ministers, also want to convey to you our support and willingness to endorse the decisions that you may deem appropriate to adopt for the purpose of obtaining the necessary institutional and political backing your government may need.

The country needs the people's representatives, who comprise the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, to come out in favor of maintaining the democratic institutions and the reinforced continuity of your government or otherwise accept their responsibilities in the face of this crisis.

Chavez Responds to Defense Minister's Statements

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[Article by Adela Leal]

[Text] We will not be frightened by the neighborhood bully attitude adopted by the defense minister when he lashes out with threats against our families, our movement, and even against journalists, an attitude that discredits the high-ranking office he holds. This was said by Commander Hugo Chavez Frias who sent this newspaper a message addressed to Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon. Chavez' message is in response to statements made by Vice Adm. Munoz Leon in which he said that he has a list of names of people who have visited the detained MBR-200 [200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement] officers who, according to the minister, are the ones who deliver documents to the media. In other words, they are the link among the commanders detained for their involvement in the 4 February incident.

"The minister threatens our families and friends as well as all those who visit us even though our constitutional rights are already being violated by the fact that visitors are restricted to 10 persons for each of those detained. I repeat, we will not be frightened and I hold the defense minister responsible for whatever may happen to us, our families, and our friends."

Chavez challenged the minister to publish the "list of corrupt people within the National Armed Forces, FAN, for example, those involved in the Turpial case, and rather than protect them, cut the privileges that some of the high-ranking officers in jail for corruption have."

Commander Chavez also said that the defense minister violates freedom of expression and freedom of the press when he threatens the brave journalists who have denounced the situation affecting the country but who, fortunately, just like us, our families, and our friends, will not be frightened by the "bully minister."